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Hafa Adai!

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Tang: Casino BGRT helps CNMI make $1M payments per week

» Casino GRT extends Fund's investment horizon
» Tang says $468M needed to fully fund Settlement Fund

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The gross revenue tax from the Saipan casino has helped the CNMI government pay $1 million per week to the Settlement Fund since December 2015, extending the Settlement Fund's investment horizon, according to Settlement Fund trustee Joyce C. H. Tang.

However, since it is not certain that this source of revenue will continue, and because of the CNMI govern-

See TANG on Page 4

Mexicans dig in rubble seeking survivors as quake kills 248

An injured man is pulled out of a building that collapsed during an earthquake in the Roma Norte neighborhood of Mexico City, Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2017. AP

By CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN and PETER ORSI
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MEXICO CITY (AP)— Rescuers and volunteers frantically dug through the rubble of collapsed schools, homes and apartment buildings long into the night, looking for survivors of Mexico's deadliest earthquake since 1985 as the number of confirmed fatalities climbed to 248 early Wednesday.

Adding poignancy and a touch of the surreal, Tuesday's magnitude 7.1 quake struck on the 32nd anniversary of the earlier temblor that killed thousands and came just two hours after earthquake drills were held across Mexico to mark the date.

One of the most desperate rescue efforts was at a primary and secondary school in southern Mexico City, where a wing of the three-story building collapsed into a massive pancake of concrete floor slabs. At the scene, journalists saw rescuers pull at least two small, sheet-covered bodies from the rubble.

The federal Education

RELATED NEWS
➤ Death toll from Mexico earthquake rises. PAGE 18

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FORMER CEC CHAIR FRANCES SABLAN'S TERM EXPIRES

Election panel has no chairperson, 3 commissioner positions vacant

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Election Commission has no chairperson and three other commissioner positions for Saipan and Northern Islands are vacant.

CEC executive director Julita Villagomez said yesterday that the term of former chairperson Frances M. Sablan expired last Aug. 8, along with the term of Saipan commissioner Trinidad Rabauliman.

Both Sablan and Rabauliman

See ELECTION on Page 4

BOE eyes certified question on budget

By BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

Agitated over not getting its constitutionally mandated share of 25 percent of next fiscal year's budget, the Public School System may submit a certified question with the CNMI Supreme Court to settle once and for all what constitutes its share.

RELATED NEWS
➤ Demapan assures PSS funding once critical appropriations are settled. PAGE 3

At a Board of Education meeting held yesterday, Herman T. Guerrero said the board has concerns about the Legislature's failure to allocate 25 percent of the general fund to the Public School System, based on the constitutional mandate.

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9 DAYS BEFORE THE END OF FISCAL YEAR 2017

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In what seems to be a purge, the Rohingyas are being wiped off the map.
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"Stronger is the kind of movie that holds as much drama off the screen as on it.
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Local

Hong Kong corporation brings lawsuit to the CNMI

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Hong Kong-based corporation is suing a principal subsidiary of Imperial Pacific International Holdings for allegedly failing to pay for professional services relating to four contracts totaling $171,500.

Hyperdrive International Limited, through counsel Robert T. Torres, is suing Prosper Wealth Global (CNMI) LLC for breach of contract and for breach of the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing.

Torres stated in the complaint that as a direct and proximate cause of Prosper Wealth's breach of all four contracts, Hyperdrive has suffered damages, including past due payments and late fees amounting to $277,067 as of May 16, 2017.

Hyperdrive is demanding damages, interest, attorney's fees and court costs, plus a jury trial.

Prosper Wealth counsel Michael Dotts said the company intends to vigorously defend itself from the lawsuit.

Dotts said that what is being sought in the complaint are "late fees" and not damages because Hyperdrive performed and alleges that it was not paid. He said Hyperdrive alleges in the vaguest terms that it performed.

Notably, he said, Hyperdrive does not say how it performed.

Dotts said that Prosper Wealth is confident when this case is heard that no "late fees" will be awarded to Hyperdrive and that Prosper Wealth will prevail.

Torres said that Hyperdrive entered into four contracts with Prosper Wealth on Aug. 31, 2015, for professional services in the total amount of $171,500.

Under the contracts, Torres said, Hyperdrive shall provide to Prosper Wealth professional services regarding the "KUNLOO" brand material; graphic design services for KUNLOO standard design and KUNLOO applications; professional services for creative design and planning for the KUNLOO sales manual; and professional printing and production services on the KUNLOO sales manual.

The lawyer said that under the materials agreement, Prosper Wealth shall pay Hyperdrive $41,150 for KUNLOO brand material purchasing fees, management, and service fees.

The agreement allegedly required Prosper to pay 70 percent of the contract fee, or $28,805, within five working days of the signing of the agreement. The remaining 30 percent, or $12,345, should be paid within five working days of completion and confirmation of the work to be performed.

Prosper Wealth has allegedly failed to make any payments and a late fee of $23,784 has accrued as of May 16, 2017.

Under the graphic design agreement, Prosper Wealth allegedly shall pay Hyperdrive $80,000 for the KUNLOO for graphic design.

The graphic design agreement required Prosper to pay 50 percent of the contract fee, or $40,000, within five working days of the signing of the agreement. The remaining 50 percent should be paid within five working days of completion and confirmation of the work to be performed.

Prosper Wealth allegedly has failed to make any payments and a late fee of $51,120 has accrued as of May 16, 2017.

Under the creative design agreement Prosper shall allegedly pay Hyperdrive $30,000 for KUNLOO sales manual creative design, management, and service fees.

The creative design agreement required that Prosper Wealth should pay 50 percent of the contract fee, or $15,000, within five working days after the signing of the agreement. The remaining 50 percent should be paid within five working days of completion and confirmation of the work to be performed.

Prosper Wealth has allegedly failed to make any payments and a late fee of $18,270 has accrued as of May 16, 2017.

Under the manual agreement, Prosper shall allegedly pay Hyperdrive $20,350 for KUNLOO sales manual printing and production, and management and service fees.

The manual agreement required Prosper Wealth to pay 50 percent of the contract fee, or $10,175, within five working days of the signing of the agreement. The remaining 50 percent of the contract fee should be paid within five working days of completion and confirmation of the work to be performed.

Prosper Wealth has allegedly failed to make any payments and a late fee of $12,393 has accrued as of May 16, 2017.

Torres said that Hyperdrive submitted a notice of dispute and demand for compliance with friendly negotiations to Prosper's registered agent, Dotts.

To date, Torres said, Prosper Wealth has not responded to Hyperdrive's request and has not made any payments.

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1. Woodward-Lopez G. Kao J. Ritchie L. To what extent have sweetened beverages contributed to the obesity epidemic? Public Health Nutrition. Sep 23, 2010:1-11.
2. Johnson R, et al. Dietary Sugars Intake and Cardiovascular Health: A Scientific Statement from the American Heart Association. Journal of the American Heart Association 2009, vol. 120, pp. 1011-1020. June 1. 2013

Alternative teaching certification process eyed for Chamorro, Carolinian teachers

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Language Policy Commission will implement a proficiency exam as an alternative certification process in order to fill bilingual instructor positions in the Public School System.

On Monday, the principal executives of the Office of Indigenous Affairs, the Office of Carolinian Affairs, and the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs signed a memorandum of agreement acknowledging the alternative certification process in hiring bilingual instructors for PSS.

Since 2011, the number of bilingual instructors in the CNMI has been dwindling.

From 60 instructors in 2011, that number has dropped to nearly only 30 bilingual instructors, including Rota and Tinian.

The MOA signed by OIA resident executive Roman Tudela, OCA executive assistant John Tagabuel, and DCCA Secretary Robert Hunter states that they agree that an alternative route should be taken to address the shortage of bilingual instructors because the current prerequisites to certify an instructor—a passing score in Praxis 1 and in Praxis 2, and 24 credits from an accredited college—cannot be met by many proficient Chamorro and Carolinian instructors.

The alternative certification process only requires at least an associate degree and a passing score in a Chamorro and Carolinian proficiency exam.

The Public School System has yet to accept the alternative certification process.

Kilili says diplomacy is key on North Korea

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (Ind-MP), who is currently in China with a congressional delegation, is currently involved in negotiations to "reduce tensions" in the region in the wake of North Korea launching missiles over Japan in the direction of Guam.

Sablan

In an email to *Saipan Tribune*, Sablan said that he, along with other members of the U.S. Congress, are in talks with government officials about what China could contribute to reduce tensions in the region.

Sablan's email said the United States, along with "our allies and other nations in the Pacific region" should find "diplomatic means to reduce the likelihood that the North Korean regime would ever use its nuclear-armed missiles."

"I have been participating in classified discussions about North Korean capabilities available to members of the U.S. Congress for many years now," Sablan said, adding that the U.S. has a "sophisticated, multi-layered defense capability" that it could use in order to protect the continental U.S. and its territories, Guam and the CNMI included.

Despite current advances in defensive military technology, Sablan conceded that "no defense can be perfect" and that diplomacy to defuse the tension in the region is critical.

"North Korea's offensive capabilities continue to grow," said Sablan. "…The people of the Marianas and of the U.S. are right to be concerned when a hostile state, like North Korea, has powerful nuclear weapons and the means to deliver them."

Delegate Madeleine Bordallo (D-GU) said in a statement that President Donald J. Trump's administration should "intensify its efforts to work with the international committee," emphasizing China in her statement.

Bordallo referred to the latest North Korean missile launch as "abhorrent and will not be tolerated."

The latest North Korean missile launching was the country's longest test flight of a ballistic missile ever. Referred to as the Hwasong-12, the missile traveled a distance of about 2,300 miles and passed over Hokkaido, a Japanese island. The missile reportedly landed in the northern Pacific Ocean.

Demapan assures PSS funding once critical appropriations are settled

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan), who chairs the House Committee on Ways and Means, said yesterday that the committee has "taken note" of the amount owed the Public School System and assured that it would be appropriated once "critical appropriations" are addressed.

Demapan

Demapan said in yesterday's session that his committee is aware of the amount owed PSS and that appropriations would occur once critical appropriations with "hard deadlines" are taken cared of first.

That was in response to Rep. Francisco Dela Cruz's (R-Saipan) request to "set aside" 25 percent of next fiscal year's general funds that PSS is entitled to under the CNMI Constitution. Similarly, Sen. Paul Mangloña (Ind-Saipan) has been vocal about addressing the constitutional mandate.

A constitutional mandate entitles PSS to 25 percent of all appropriations.

"We have taken note of this amount and we have scheduled that this would be appropriated once we [take] care of critical appropriations that have deadlines," said Demapan.

He cited the two most recent appropriations of $28.6 million and $8.6 million, most of which went to land compensation judgments and payment of what the Commonwealth government owes the Settlement Fund.

"We understand PSS is owed 25 percent of these funds but because of the immediate deadlines that was before us by the court, we agreed to appropriate this amount to take care of the land compensation judgment and that we would take care of PSS entitlement in subsequent legislation," he said.

The land compensation judgment had a deadline of Aug. 18, 2017, as previously ordered by Superior Court judge pro tempore Alberto C. Lamorena III. A bill to address this issue was enacted on Aug. 16, 2017. House Bill 20-103 addressed the largest debt the Commonwealth government owed—the compensation for the Maria Mangabao estate amounting to more than $16 million and an interest rate of about $1 million annually.

When the audit reports for fiscal years 2014 and 2015 came out, it was found out

See DEMAPAN on Next Page

'All issues in Johnson's class action resolved'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Settlement Fund trustee Joyce C. H. Tang and other parties filed Tuesday in federal court a joint report, stating that Betty Johnson's class action should be closed now as all issues have already been resolved.

The report was submitted by Tang, deputy attorney general Lillian A. Tenorio, and Commonwealth Ports Authority counsel Robert T. Torres.

Torres said CPA agrees that all issues in the case and in CPA's motion for writ of mandamus have been resolved.

Torres, however, stated that CPA does not join in any other part of the status report and does not agree with or otherwise adopt the statements of the trustee or the other parties.

Tenorio and Tang stated that, in light of the district court's approval of Johnson's class action settlement agreement, all issues in the case are resolved and there are no remaining unresolved issues.

The report follows an order from the U.S. District Court for the NMI on whether the case can now be closed.

In 2013, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood gave final approval to the global settlement agreement in Johnson's class action against the CNMI government and the NMI Retirement Fund.

Under the deal, the CNMI government agrees to make annual payments that will enable the settlement to fund at least 75 percent of class members' benefits.

With the final approval, all Retirement Fund assets were transferred to the Settlement Fund, as administered by Tang as a court-appointed trustee.

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QUAKE

From Page 1

Department reported late Tuesday night that 25 bodies had been recovered from the school's wreckage, all but four of them children. It was not clear whether the deaths were included in the overall death toll of 248 reported by the federal civil defense agency.

During a visit to the site earlier in the night, President Enrique Pena Nieto had reported 22 bodies found and said 30 children and eight adults were reported missing at that point.

A mix of neighborhood volunteers, police and firefighters used trained dogs and their bare hands to search through the school's rubble. Reports swept through the crowd of anxious parents outside the gates that relatives in two families had received Whatsapp messages from girls trapped inside, but that could not be confirmed.

The rescue effort continued through the night, the work punctuated by cries of "quiet" so searchers could listen for any faint calls for help.

"They have heard voices in there," Pena Nieto said.

Rescuers had to shore up the fallen concrete slabs with wooden beams so they wouldn't collapse further and crush whatever tiny airspaces remained.

In a video message released late Tuesday, Pena Nieto urged people to be calm and said authorities were moving to provide help as 40 percent of Mexico City and 60 percent of nearby Morelos state were without power. But, he said, "The priority at this moment is to keep rescuing people who are still trapped and to give medical attention to the injured people."

People across central Mexico already had rallied to help their neighbors as dozens of buildings tumbled into mounds of rubble. Mexico City Mayor Miguel Angel Mancera said buildings fell at 44 sites in the capital alone as high-rises across the city swayed and twisted and hundreds of thousands of panicked people ran into the streets blocking traffic.

Dust-covered and exhausted from digging, Carlos Mendoza, 30, said two people were pulled alive from the ruins of a collapsed apartment building in the Roma Sur neighborhood during a three-hour period.

"When we saw this, we came to help. This is ugly, very ugly," he said, gesturing at the destruction.

Blocks away, Alma Gonzalez was in her fourth-floor apartment when the quake collapsed the ground floor of her building, leaving her no way out. She said she was terrified until the people living in the neighboring house mounted a ladder on their roof and helped her slide out a side window.

Mancera said 50 to 60 people were rescued alive by citizens and emergency workers in the capital.

The national Civil Defense agency reported early Wednesday that the confirmed death toll had climbed to 248, more than half of them in the capital.

The official Twitter feed of agency head Luis Felipe Puente said 117 dead had been counted in Mexico City and 72 in Morelos state, which is just south of the capital. It said 43 were known dead in Puebla state, where the quake was centered. Twelve deaths were listed in the State of Mexico, which surrounds Mexico City on three sides, and three in Guerrero state.

At the site of a collapsed apartment building in Mexico City, rescuers worked atop a three-story pile of rubble, forming a human chain that passed pieces of rubble across four city blocks to a site where they were dumped.

Throughout the day, rescuers pulled dust-covered people, some barely conscious, some seriously injured, from about three dozen collapsed buildings. At one site, shopping carts commandeered from a nearby supermarket were used to carry water to the rescue site and take rubble away.

As night began to fall huge flood lights lit up the recovery sites, but workers and volunteers begged for headlamps.

Where a six-story office building collapsed in Mexico City, sisters Cristina and Victoria Lopez Torres formed part of a human chain passing bottled water.

BOE

From Page 1

The question that PSS wants answered, among others, is what constitutes the "general fund," whether PSS is entitled to the gross or the net, when the governor submits his budget.

"Once the [fiscal year] 2018 budget is signed into law, then the Legislature needs to gear up and address the supplemental budget and not wait. Right now, we have some concerns that, if they [lawmakers] keep delaying, then perhaps the compensation plan we intend to implement might have to be delayed," Guerrero said. "If that is the case, I'll tell the teachers, let's go up to the Legislature and lobby up there. I would like to see one member of the Legislature say no to those teachers."

The board has already approved a plan to increase the salaries of teachers. What's needed is funding.

According to Guerrero, members of the Legislature themselves have been asking the question that need to be addressed once and for all: what is PSS entitled to in terms of the revenue of the Commonwealth.

"The board has approved asking the certified questions. We are currently working on the questions. But how [we will phrase it] is still with the legal counsel, who is working on it," Guerrero said.

"The board members will review it and see whether that is the question we would like to ask the Supreme Court," he added.

According to Guerrero, the CNMI Supreme Court is the only body that can make a final determination on the matter.

"It keeps vacillating back and forth. The administration has different interpretations, the members of the Legislature has different interpretations and we at PSS have different interpretations," he said.

"We are saying that if we are entitled, then we should given that. The governor keeps identifying funds from the casino gross revenue tax and appropriating that. When you identify those funds, then PSS is also entitled to those funds. So…I hope he did not spend all of it already because we are entitled to it," Guerrero added.

At a Senate session last Sept. 16, when the budget bill was taken up, Sen. Paul Mangloña (Ind-Rota) pointed out that the CNMI Constitution mandates a budget for PSS that is 25 percent "of what is considered the general fund." With general fund revenues estimated at $46 million, 25 percent of that is $11 million, he said.

Mangloña also believes PSS should receive 25 percent of casino-generated gross revenue tax. He said that this year's CGRT is estimated at about $58 million and that PSS should receive $14.5 million, a quarter of the total amount.

"For this year so far, we have not given PSS a single dollar. Yet we have passed several CGRT piecemeal appropriations totaling more than $28 million," he said.

According to Guerrero, if the lawmakers are looking the other way and do not want to raise the issue with the governor, then they are failing in their constitutional responsibilities.

"Their silence speaks volumes that they are not really committed to the Public School System. The Legislature keeps doing this earmarking over the years, so basically, they are intentionally moving money away from the general funds and the PSS," he said.

He pointed out that PSS asked for a budget of $54 million, yet was only appropriated $35 million to $36 million.

"The Legislature failed in their duties last year and the current fiscal year, which is about to ready to be over. We also requested money for life insurance or health insurance…the matching component thereof…but they failed to include money in it. So we are scrambling around. We really hope they take their duties seriously," he said.

Guerrero said the certified questions may be submitted in two weeks.

TANG

From Page 1

ment's own lack of revenue diversification, relying too much on the casino GRT "is very risky," Tang said.

Subject to certain assumptions, Tang said, an additional $468 million would need to be infused to the Settlement Fund today to fully fund it.

These, and other issues, were contained in Tang's report filed in federal court yesterday on the operation of the Settlement Fund for fiscal year 2016 through the third quarter of fiscal year 2017.

Tang said the CNMI government has worked closely with the Settlement Fund to make the minimum annual payment of $30 million in fiscal year 2016 and $33 million in fiscal year 2017.

Since December 2015, the government has been making regular payments of $1 million per week to the Settlement Fund, she said.

"The regular weekly payments has allowed the Settlement Fund to avoid drawdowns on investments and extended the Settlement Fund's investment horizon," she said.

In fiscal year 2018, Tang said, the minimum annual payment, or MAP, will increase to $45 million.

The actuary consultant engaged by the Settlement Fund, Milliman Inc., has confirmed that the $45 million MAP provided in the settlement agreement in Betty Johnson's class action is appropriate for fiscal year 2018.

Tang previously reported that unless the CNMI government increases its contributions, the Settlement Fund is expected to become a pay-as-you-go entity in 2019.

If the government continues to make timely and periodic payments of the MAP, the expected asset depletion date for the Settlement Fund may be extended to the end of 2024, Tang said, quoting Maggie Ralbovsky, the Settlement Fund's investment adviser.

Tang said the government's weekly payment of $1 million to the Settlement Fund in the past two years has given the Fund the cash flow it needed for bi-weekly benefit payments to the beneficiaries without having to liquidate the Fund's investments.

The government's willingness to make these large weekly payments eased the Settlement Fund's liquidity requirements, Tang said, allowing the Settlement Fund to invest its money for longer periods.

Tang said the government is able to make these payments, in part, because of the increased casino GRT revenue collected in 2016 and 2017, which has developed into a primary source of revenue for the government.

She pointed out, though, that the lack of diversification of revenue sources creates a risk for the CNMI.

Tang said the continuing payment of the casino GRT to the government at the current rate is, at best, uncertain.

In order to mitigate the risk to the Settlement Fund, Tang said she is exploring alternative funding methods, including obtaining full funding of the Settlement Fund.

She said the Settlement Fund's investment consultant has calculated the amount ($468 million) that is needed for the Settlement Fund to be fully funded.

ELECTION

From Page 1

represented Saipan and the Northern Islands.

This left the commission with four vacant commissioners, all representing Saipan and the Northern Islands, Villagomez said.

She and CEC administrative officer Kayla Igitol met with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres last week, during which they informed the governor about the lack of a chairperson and three other vacancies at the commission.

The governor reportedly assured them that he would look into it and fill up the vacancies.

At present, the Commonwealth Election Commission has five commissioners: Jesus I. Sablan for Saipan and the Northern Islands, Donald Hofschneider and Joseph E. Santos for Tinian and Aguiguan, and Leilani Manglona and Esther Yatar for Rota.

Each commissioner has a four-year term and requires Senate's confirmation.

Villagomez said that Jesus I. Sablan called for a board meeting for Tuesday, Sept. 26, at the CEC office in Susupe at 10am. At the meeting, the commissioners may select who shall serve as pro tem chair and pro tem vice chair.

DEMAPAN

From Page 3

that the Commonwealth government owed the Settlement Fund about $7.1 million.

That forced Settlement Fund trustee Joyce Tang to issue an ultimatum to the Commonwealth government in the third of a series of letters addressed to the governor. Tang asserted that without the Commonwealth government's commitment to address the debt owed the Settlement Fund, it would cease processing the 25 percent payments to retirees. The deadline was set on Aug. 28, 2017. HB 20-116, the bill that appropriated the funding for the payment, is now Public Law 20-09.

Demapan also explained that the Legislature also addressed first the retroactive lump-sum payments owed government employees stuck at Step 12 during the financial austerity measures back in the early 2000's. The bill has not yet been enacted due to technical concerns, however the money to address the issue has been set aside and a substitute bill to address the concerns just passed the House.

Board of Education director Herman Guerrero had harsh comments for the Legislature when the House acted only on the fiscal year 2018 budget bill, or HB 20-105, when it came out of the bicameral conference committee.

Guerrero wished that the Legislature would "stop playing games" and that the body has been "leaving PSS out" of appropriations.

"I hope that this body seriously considers that delaying PSS money affects the student's education in the Commonwealth," he said, challenging the Legislature to prove that they support education by appropriating PSS' entitlements.

"You cannot keep ignoring PSS because the Constitution is very clear; the 25 percent is an earmark," Guerrero said.

House Speaker Rafal Demapan (R-Saipan) said in a previous interview that the Legislature would address underfunded agencies, PSS included.

"We would continue to address their needs through other sources of funding. The budgeting work does not end here. We would continue to address those other departments in dire need of funds," he said.

Propst on Espaldon complaint: This is not over

Rep. Ed Propst (Ind-Saipan) hopes that higher government authorities in Guam would look into the matter further, soon after a Guam legislative committee came out with the results of its investigation into a Guam senator.

The Guam Legislature's Ethics and Standards Committee had issued a resolution that found Guam Sen. James Espaldon's involvement in an engine procurement process by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. had violated the Guam Code of Ethics and Standards.

The committee recommended Tuesday that Espaldon be removed from leadership positions for the remainder of his legislative term and require him and his staff to undergo a 16-hour refresher course on ethics in government.

The committee noted, though Espaldon may be subjected to other sanctions, up to an including discharge, should the Guam Legislature deem it so.

The committee investigation was prompted by Propst filing an ethics complaint with the Guam Legislature.

In yesterday's session of the CNMI House of Representatives, Propst told other members that he wishes the Federal Bureau of Investigation as well as the U.S. Attorney's Office would also look into the matter.

"I continue to ask Attorney General Edward Manibusan to continue to investigate and look into this deal because it is clearly not over. I also hope that the FBI and the U.S. Attorney continue to look into this," Propst said.

Propst also thanked Rep. Francisco Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), who chairs the House Public Utilities and Transportation Committee, and his counterpart in the Senate, Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan).

"I [believe] I am satisfied and I think my colleagues in the House and Senate would be satisfied [with the Guam resolution]," said Propst.

In a brief statement to *Saipan Tribune,* Propst also expressed gratitude to Guam Ethics and Standards Committee chair Guam Sen. Fernando B. Esteves.

"I am grateful to Senator Esteves…and his committee members for the work they did," he said.

"Moving forward, I sincerely hope that all elected officials in Guam and the Commonwealth remember that no one is above the law and that we all must answer to the people who put their faith and trust in us."

The Guam committee found Espaldon to be guilty of receiving meals, airfare, and other travel expenses in at least one trip to Korea and several trips to Saipan. Espaldon acted as a spokesperson of General Pacific Services Marianas Inc., the recipient of a CUC contract to procure a generator for the corporation.

CUC board chair Adelina Roberto was related to vice president for GPSM Phil Roberto. Adelina declined to recuse herself from negotiations. The Guam committee found that Espaldon "in fact knew and in any event should have known" that GPSM sought to use Espaldon's influence as a senator in order to influence CUC. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

IAO wants right to 3 latte sites

The Indigenous Affairs Office wants to secure the management rights to three latte sites on Saipan.

Many of these sites are currently under the auspices of the Department of Public Lands but are currently under conservation by the Historic Preservation Office.

The Indigenous Affairs Office wants the right to these sites transferred to it.

In an email, IAO resident executive director Roman Tudela informed DPL Secretary Marianne Teregeyo that his office is ready and awaiting the designation of three latte sites.

"My office stands ready to commit in honoring our Chamorro ancestors by preserving, protecting, and promoting the Chamorro heritage," said Tudela in his email.

The email informs Teregeyo that Tudela will soon submit a proposal to the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation that requests the funding to carry out the preservation and enhancements of the latte sites as soon as the sites are turned over to its office.

According to Tudela, the request for rights to the three latte sites in Kagman was inspired by his visits to the area.

"I toured three latte sites with the Historic Preservation Office personnel and I was overwhelmed with sadness at the neglect of our historical sites," said Tudela.

He believes that, although the site is under preservation work, it should still be promoted and that these sites should be open to residents and tourists.

These sites are not only ancient artifacts but they are symbolic of the indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian heritage, he added.

He believes the sites should remain accessible to those of Northern Marianas descent. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

Shipping firm settles lawsuit over alleged delay in shipment to Rota

Saipan Shipping Co. Inc. has settled a lawsuit in federal court filed by a Rota company and a businessman over alleged delay of their shipments to Rota that caused some of their goods to expire or get damaged.

That resulted in the lawsuit—filed by Kin & Rit Inc. and Francisco M. Atalig, who owns Sinapalo Safeway—being dropped Monday.

Attorney Matthew T. Gregory is counsel for Kin & Rit Inc. and Atalig. Attorney Colin M. Thompson is counsel for Saipan Shipping.

Gregory and Thompson asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to dismiss in entirety all claims brought by the parties in the case. Each party shall bear their own attorney's fees and costs.

Kin & Rit Inc. and Atalig sued Saipan Shipping for 15 counts of breach of contract, 15 counts of negligence, one count of Consumer Protection Act violation, and one count of breach of the covenant of good faith and fair dealing.

According to Gregory in the complaint, Atalig shipped goods to Rota via Saipan Shipping on Jan. 9, 2014; Nov. 26, 2014; and March 23, 2015.

Gregory said the goods arrived on Rota 90 days after. Upon inspection of goods, it was determined that some were expired due to the extended shipping period or had been damaged during transport, Gregory said.

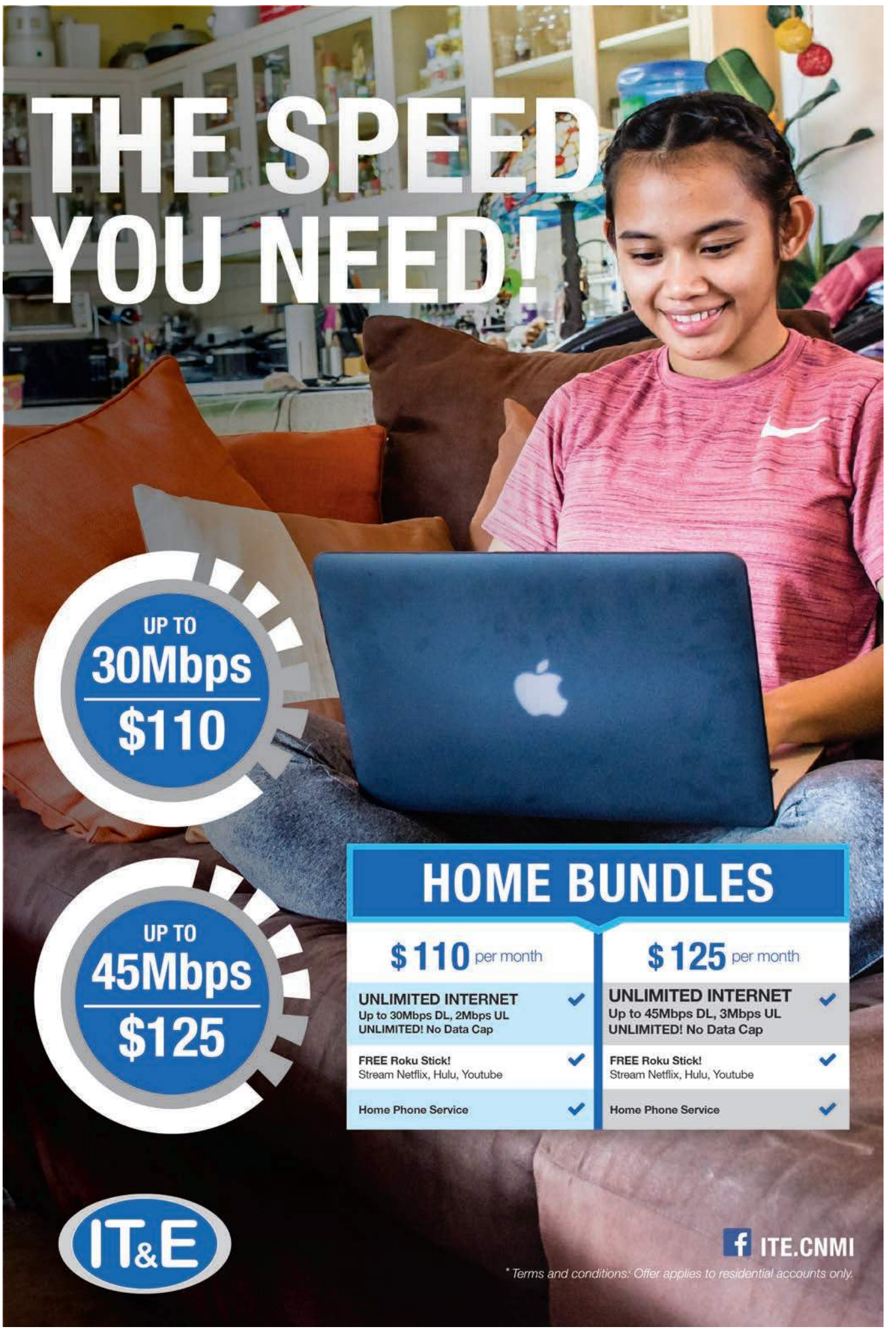
Gregory said that Atalig also shipped goods to Rota via Saipan Shipping on March 24, 2015, but it arrived on Rota 180 days after receiving the items from Atalig. Some were expired due to the extended shipping period or had been damaged during transport, he said.

In the case of K&R, it shipped goods to Rota also via Saipan Shipping on April 22, 2015, but the goods never arrived, Gregory said

He said K&R and Atalig had some items shipped to Rota on June 4, 2015, but they arrived on the island 90 days after transfer and that some of the goods were expired due to the shipping delay or had been damaged during transport.

On June 4, 2015, Atalig has some items shipped to Rota but the goods arrived on the island 90 days after transfer and that some of the goods were expired due to the extended shipping period or had been damaged, Gregory said.

The lawyer said the unreasonable delay in shipping the containers was not due to bad weather but was to ensure a full barge to maximize Saipan Shipping's profits. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***



Joint Region Marianas ready to defend NMI—Chatfield

Joint Region Marianas commander Rear Admiral Shoshana Chatfield and U.S. National Weather Service Forecast Office in Guam warning coordination meteorologist Charles "Chip" Guard pose with Saipan Mayor David Apatang, House Speaker Ralph Demapan, some lawmakers, government officials and members of private sector during the #liveprepared CNMI event held Tuesday at the CNMI Operations Center on Capital Hill. At the event, lawmakers also awarded Guard with a House commemorative resolution for his outstanding contributions to the CNMI.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rear Admiral Shoshana Chatfield, who leads the Joint Region Marianas as its commander, assured Tuesday that Joint Region Marianas is ready to defend the CNMI community against all hazards.

"Joint Region Marianas, the Department of Defense is always ready to support the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in times of crisis even if you don't see us every day," said Chatfield in her capability briefing Tuesday at the CNMI Operations Center on Capital Hill.

Chatfield was the speaker at the #liveprepared CNMI event conducted by the CNMI Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management as part of Commonwealth Preparedness Month.

Charles "Chip" Guard, the U.S. National Weather Service meteorologist in Guam, also discussed the weather outlook for the rest of 2017.

Chatfield said that what people may not be aware of and what they don't often get a chance to talk about is the high readiness that is maintained by the U.S. military in Guam.

"And that readiness extends to the CNMI," Chatfield said, adding that the U.S. Department of Defense is committed to the safety and protection of everyone.

She cited HSEM's emergency preparedness plan for the community as an important part of helping maintain that state of readiness.

Joint Region Marianas would not be able to maintain that state of readiness without all of the activities they do here in the CNMI, Chatfield said.

She said the military remains diligent in its national defense planning efforts.

"And we're supported very well by the Commonwealth," Chatfield added, underscoring the importance of the CNMI in U.S. history and national defense.

She said this partnership with the CNMI in readiness and national defense is deeply rooted and thanked the CNMI for its continued efforts to maintain a robust partnership.

Chatfield said an app project by the HSEM will help distribute accurate local information and a tool to help communicate with family in the event of a weather emergency.

In an interview later, Chatfield said that people need to focus on their own preparedness, then their family's preparedness, and the community's preparedness. "It's always good to have a family plan," she said.

Having a backup plan to communicate with family members in case of a power outage would be very helpful, she said.

She pointed out that first responders at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center are knowledgeable about the community.

In his brief remarks, Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres cited Typhoon Soudelor's destruction on Saipan in 2015 to stress the importance of having federal partners during disasters.

He urged people to take seriously all government's emergency notices.

HSEM planner Nadine Deleon Guerrero said in an interview that they have several projects that they have been working on in the last three weeks.

"We are very proud and happy and excited to deliver it to the Marianas today," Deleon Guerrero said.

One of those projects is an emergency preparedness app that is going to be available for download either at the end of the month or first week of October.

Deleon Guerrero said they also worked on a 90-second commercial project featuring Torres and key members of the community talking about emergency preparedness.

Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting Agenda

Thursday, September 28, 2017
5:00 PM, Multipurpose Center, Susupe
Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • www.zoning.gov.mp

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of 08/09/2017 meeting minutes
5. Public Comments (not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings:
1. **Conditional Use Application #2017-2980**: Green Estate Holdings (CNMI), LLC is proposing to occupy an existing building for its car service area and construct a new structure for its Auto/Bus repair service area. This use is classified as "Vehicle Repair, General" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot Nos. 463-NEW-6 & 463-NEW-7 in Chalan Piao. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.
2. **Rezone Application #2017-3071:** Haohe, LLC is requesting to rezone Lot 347 in San Jose/Oleai from "Village Commercial" to "Tourist Resort" zoning district for a hotel development. Lot is located north of the track & field; between Teer Drive and Oleai Street on the east side of Beach Road, directly across former Borja Funeral Home.
3. **Conditional Use Application #2017-3396:** Sheng Yuan International, Inc. dba Airport Castle Hotel is proposing to occupy an existing 7-storey structure to operate a hotel, with 73 rooms and 154 parking spaces. This use is classified as "Hotel/Motel" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lots H246 (1 to 23 lots) on Airport Road. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.
4. **Conditional Use Application #2017-3449:** Marianas Outsource LLC dba SaveMore Market is proposing to occupy an existing one-storey building for a "Mom & Pop Grocery Store". This use is classified as "Mom & Pop Grocery Store" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 015 D 46-49, along President Street in China Town. This area is zoned as Village Residential.
5. **Conditional Use Application #2017-3481:** MEC, LLC dba WSTCO Retail Feeds Store and Staff House is proposing to construct a new structure for its Animal Feed store and also proposes to renovate an existing one-storey structure and construct a 2nd floor for its staff housing. These uses are classified as "Warehousing and General Wholesaling" and "Institutional Residential" respectively, and are permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 380-BNEW 7-1-2 in Susupe. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

C. Communication
D. Old Business
E. New Business
1. Operations Reports (Permitting & Enforcement)

F. Executive (Closed) Session
G. Miscellaneous
a. Other Matters
b. Announcements
c. Next Meeting

H. Adjourn

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogumoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
INVITATION TO BID (ITB)
ITB 17-CHCC/HA-004

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 02, 2017 TIME: 11:00AM

"LAPARASCOPIC CHOLECYSTECTOMY SYSTEM, HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATION, COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

COPIES OF THE ITB PACKET MAY BE PICKED –UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY BIDS, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP 17-CHCC/PHARMACY-29

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 04, 2017 TIME: 1:00PM

"AREA 10 REFURBISHMENT, PHARMACY, COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

MANDATORY PRE-SUBMISSION ON-SITE ASSESSMENT

A MANDATORY ON-SITE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROJECT AREA WILL BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 27, 2017 AT 8:30AM. ALL INTERESTED VENDORS MUST ATTEND TO VIEW THE SPACE AND MAY TAKE MEASUREMENTS AND ASK ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED –UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY BID, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Lions Club to celebrate 25th anniversary

In celebration of its 25th year anniversary in the CNMI, the Saipan Fil-American Lions Club will be a host a fundraiser called "The Ultimate Drag Queen 2017" on Nov. 4 at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort, with VIP tickets priced at $25 and general admission at $10. Proceeds will be used for the club's community projects like improvement of road signage along the Beach Road Pathway and the annual Christmas gift-giving campaign to underprivileged children, among others. Fourteen candidates will be competing; the top 5 will be receiving cash prizes, sashes, bouquets, and a crown. All non-winners will have consolation prizes. The show will be choreographed and directed by Ernie Molina. For more details and sponsorsorships, call SFALC president Annamae Adaza at 483-5237, vice president Lourdes Ortiz at 785-2306, VP Leony Mendoza at 287-7563, secretary Mario Mayuga at 285-1021, or Molina at 789-8212. ***(PR)***

Free Service Academy Nights this week

The office of Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan is hosting free Service Academy Nights this week for those interested in learning more about the educational and career opportunities offered by the U.S. military academies, eligibility requirements, and how to apply.

■ Rota: Thursday, Sept. 21, Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr./Sr. High School, from 5pm to 7pm

■ Tinian: Friday, Sept. 22, Tinian Jr./Sr. High School, from 5pm to 7pm

To RSVP or for more information, contact the congressional office at 323-2647 or email kilili@mail.house.gov. ***(PR)***

Half-day at MHS

Friday, Sept. 22, is half-day for all Marianas High School students. Dismissal is at 12:30pm. The first quarter mid-progress reports will be released from 4pm to 6pm at the E courtyard. ***(PR)***

PTSA meeting for Kagman cluster schools

The Kagman cluster schools will be having a PTSA meeting today, Sept. 21, 2017, from 5pm to 6pm. Topics to be discussed: School budget proposals, committee support, uniforms, betel nut consequences at the high school level and more! There will be a cake raffle. Call the school at 237-3921 or 664-4100. ***(PR)***

FOA presents one-act comedies

The Friends of the Arts' first production of the new season, *One-Act Comedy Night*, presents comedies written by David Ives, Robert Anderson, and Shel Silverstein and will be performed by Cherlyn Cabrera, Harold Easton, Neil Fama, Gios Gozon, Maria Mettao, Deirdre Rosete, Chuck Sayon, Emma Timmons, Rinisa Torres, Kristine Wolf, and Les Wolf. It will be directed by Harold Easton and staged at the Dolphin Theatre inside the Marianas High School campus, and will run on the evenings of Sept. 22, 23, and 24 at 7pm. Tickets for non-FOA members will cost $8, while tickets for adult FOA members will cost $6 and students is $4. Seats are limited. Call Frank Gibson at 287-7476 or by e-mail at flgibson@yahoo.com. ***(PR)***

Free seminar on small business taxes

The CNMI Small Business Development Center will be offering a free business seminar on Saipan at the Commonwealth Development Authority boardroom today, Sept. 21, 2017, from 8am to 12pm. The free seminar is called "Everything You Need to Know About Small Business Taxes" and will be presented by the CNMI Division of Revenue & Taxation and CNMI Division of Customs Services. To register, contact the SBDC office at (670) 664-3018 or online by going to http://pisbdcn.ecenterdirect.com/events to register. ***(PR)***

EEO opportunity, civil rights updates at SHRM meeting

Glory Gervacio, director of the EEOC's Honolulu Office, along with Jenna Grambort and Sebastian Aloot from the U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, D.C., will be presenting on updates and current issues on the topic "Equal Employment Opportunity and Civil Rights" at a meeting of the Society for Human Resource Management NMI Chapter on Friday, Sept. 22, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's SandCastle, from 8:30am to 2:30pm. This presentation is open to the public and includes the Hyatt lunch buffet and morning snacks and drinks at the cost of $40 for SHRM members and $50 for non-members. Reserve your seat by contacting Penny Jones by email at penelope.jones@hyatt.com or Denise Montenegro at denise.montenegro@hyatt.com or by telephone at 323-5867/68. ***(PR)***

CHILD CARE MATTERS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kim Means, senior consultant for the State Capacity Building Center, funded by the U.S. Health and Human Services Office of Child Care, far right; Maribel Loste, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' Child Care Development Fund program administrator, second from right; and Roselle Teregeyo DCCA CCDF co-administrator, left, met with Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan) to discuss emerging challenges of child care programs such as daycare and Early Head Start due to funding constraints, increasing number of participants, and the shortage of skilled, trained and certified providers. Child care programs provide relief to working parents and parents enrolled in higher education courses.

Northern Marianas Humanities Council
Navigating the Human Experience

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Board of Directors
Northern Marianas Humanities Council

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council (Council) wishes to announce four vacancies on its board of directors.

The Council is a non-profit, private corporation affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Council's mission is to "foster awareness, understanding and appreciation of the humanities through support of educational programs that relate the humanities to the indigenous cultures and to the intellectual needs and interests of the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The Council's board is comprised of thirteen volunteer members who serve three year terms. The Council strives to maintain a board that reflects a broad cross-section of our CNMI community. The ideal candidate will have a strong desire to promote the Council's mission, programs, and activities and to actively participate in fundraising activities. Board responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Attending regular Council meetings four time annually;
- Raising funds for Council programs;
- Promoting awareness about the Council's mission and its programs in the community;
- Attending Council programs and activities;
- Participating in working committee meetings;
- Evaluating Council programs and activities;
- Reviewing grant applications;
- Providing input about the humanities from various community members, and
- Attending conferences, workshops and other meetings on behalf of the Council

Applicants are invited to submit their letters of interest and resumes to Frankie M. Eliptico, Chair, Northern Marianas Humanities Council at Post Office Box 506437, Saipan, MP 96950 or delivered to the Council's office located in the Springs Plaza Building in Gualo Rai. Letters of interest and resumes must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, October 13, 2017. For additional information please contact the Council's Executive Director, Scott Russell, at telephone 235-4785 or visit the Council's website at www.northernmarianashumanities.org.

UNITED STATES
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities hereby gives notice that it will hold its 1st Quarter General Membership Meeting on September 22, 2017, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Pacific Islands Club. – Charley's Cabaret

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Review & Adoption of Agenda of September 22, 2017
IV. Review & Adoption of Meeting Minutes of June 30, 2017
V. Action Items
a. Ratify/Approve Amendment to Assistive Technology Grant FY 2017 Budget
b. Ratify/Approve Amendment to DD Basic Grant FY 2017 Budget
c. Review & Approve Memorandum of Agreement between CDD and the DCCA (Commonwealth Respite Service Program)
d. Ratify/Approve the Return of TAFP Funding to the CNMI Treasury under TAFP Account
e. Election of Officer - Secretary
VI. Reports
a. Chairperson
b. State Plan Committee Chairperson
c. Fiscal Committee Chairperson
d. Executive Director
VII. Old Business
a. Circles Model
b. National Technical Assistance Center on Transition – Capacity Building Institute
c. Seating & Wheeled Mobility Service Training Workshop
d. Transition Conference
VIII. New Business
a. President's Initiative – Partnerships for Innovation, Inclusion and Independence
IX. Miscellaneous
X. Next Meeting
XI. Adjournment

Note: Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 13(a) 7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session.
In accordance to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council 5 days in advance at 664-7000. The Public is welcome to submit written or 3 minutes oral comments regarding the agenda above.

/s/ Efren Nicholas
Chairperson

This ad was paid for by funds from the DD Basic Grant Part A (Administrative)

CNMI awarded $142,000 in STEP grant funds

The U.S. Small Business Administration announced Tuesday that $18 million in funding has been awarded to 44 state international trade agencies through SBA's competitive State Trade Expansion Program, STEP, to support export growth among U.S. small businesses.

Of the 44 state and territorial agencies, the CNMI Department of Commerce was awarded $142,000 in STEP grant funds.

STEP is designed to increase both the number of small businesses that begin to export and the value of exports for small businesses currently exporting.

Expanding the base of small business exporters and making the process as easy as possible is a key component of the Trump administration's small business strategy.

"The awards will provide a solid foundation for small businesses planning to enter and set them up for success," SBA administrator Linda McMahon said.

Commerce Secretary Mark O. Rabauliman said these funds will be used for the CNMI Department of Commerce "to conduct a comprehensive outreach to businesses on how to advertise their products to off-island markets, particularly the Asian markets. The goal is to enhance our export capability here in the Northern Mariana Islands."

The STEP program is an essential federal program that provides small businesses "here in the CNMI with the tools they need to succeed within a more globalized economy," said Gov. Ralph DLG Torres. "I commend the CNMI Department of Commerce for being proactive in helping us expand our product reach to not only our historical markets, but also the rest of the world."

The 2017 STEP awards will allow states to assist small businesses with the information and tools they need to succeed in export related activities that are in line with the objectives of the program. These objectives include participation in foreign trade missions, foreign market sales trips, services provided by the U.S. Department of Commerce, as well as design of international marketing campaigns, export trade show exhibits, training workshops, and more.

STEP awards are managed and provided at the local level by state government organizations. The program is managed at the national level by the U.S. Small Business Administration's Office of International Trade. ***(PR)***

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Marianas Outsource LLC
dba SaveMore Market

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Marianas Outsource LLC dba SaveMore Market is proposing to occupy an existing one-storey building for a "Mom & Pop Grocery Store". This use is classified as "Mom & Pop Grocery Store" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 015 D 46-49, along President Street in China Town. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

Date: Thursday, September 28, 2017
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Multi-purpose Center, Susupe

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, September 27, 2017. Please send written comments via e-mail toTherese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

MEC, LLC dba WSTCO
Retail Feeds Store and Staff House

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. MEC, LLC dba WSTCO Retail Feeds Store and Staff House is proposing to construct a new structure for its Animal Feed store and also proposes to renovate an existing one-storey structure and construct a 2nd floor for its staff housing. These uses are classified as "Warehousing and General Wholesaling" and "Institutional Residential" respectively, and are permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 380-BNEW 7-1-2 in Susupe. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

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Place: Multi-purpose Center, Susupe

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/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Sheng Yuan International, Inc.
dba Airport Castle Hotel

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Sheng Yuan International, Inc. dba Airport Castle Hotel is proposing to occupy an existing 7-storey structure to operate a hotel, with 73 rooms and 154 parking spaces. This use is classified as "Hotel/Motel" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lots H246 (1 to 23 lots) on Airport Road. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

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/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Green Estate Holdings (CNMI), LLC

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Green Estate Holdings (CNMI), LLC is proposing to occupy an existing building for its car service area and construct a new structure for its Auto/Bus repair area. This use is classified as "Vehicle Repair, General" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot Nos. 463-NEW-6 & 463-NEW-7 in Chalan Piao. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

Date: Thursday, September 28, 2017
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Multi-purpose Center, Susupe

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For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

TPS for South Sudan extended

WASHINGTON—Acting secretary of Homeland Security Elaine Duke has extended Temporary Protected Status for eligible nationals of South Sudan (and eligible individuals without nationality who last habitually resided in South Sudan) through May 2, 2019.

After consulting with the appropriate U.S. government agencies, and reviewing country conditions, Duke determined that an 18-month extension of South Sudan for TPS is necessary because the ongoing armed conflict and extraordinary and temporary conditions that prompted the 2016 TPS redesignation have persisted.

Current beneficiaries of South Sudan's TPS designation seeking to extend their TPS status must re-register.

The deadline will be published in the Federal Register and on www.uscis.gov/tps later this week.

Those who re-register and request a new employment authorization document may receive an automatic extension of their expiring EAD for up to 180 days from the date their current EAD expires.

If a beneficiary's EAD request is approved, they will receive a new EAD with an expiration date of May 2, 2019.

TPS beneficiaries are strongly encouraged to re-register and file their EAD applications as early as possible to avoid lapses in documentation of employment authorization.

Additional information about TPS for South Sudan, including guidance on eligibility, the application process and where to file is available online at uscis.gov/tps.

Further details about this extension of TPS for South Sudan, including the application requirements and procedures, will appear in a Federal Register notice to be published soon. ***(USCIS)***

USCIS is no longer accepting petitions for temporary nonagricultural visa program

WASHINGTON—U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is no longer accepting petitions from U. S. employers seeking to hire temporary nonagricultural workers under the one-time increase to the fiscal year 2017 H-2B cap announced in July.

For the first time, in May, Congress delegated its authority to the secretary of Homeland Security to increase the number of temporary nonagricultural work visas available to U.S. employers through fiscal year 2017.

After consulting with Labor Secretary Alexander Acosta, then-Homeland Security secretary John Kelly determined there were not enough qualified and willing U.S. workers available to perform temporary nonagricultural labor to satisfy the needs of some American businesses in fiscal year 2017. Consequently, additional H-2B visas were made available to American businesses that could establish they would likely suffer irreparable harm if they could not hire all the H-2B workers requested in their fiscal year 2017 petitions. An additional 15,000 visas were made available under a final rule published in July. USCIS previously met the fiscal year 2017 cap for H-2B visas in March.

Following the filing deadline guidance included in July's final rule, USCIS has stopped accepting petitions and is rejecting any fiscal year 2017 H-2B cap-subject petitions received after Sept. 15.

With the close of the petition period on Sept. 15, USCIS has tabulated that it has received a total request of 13,534 workers.

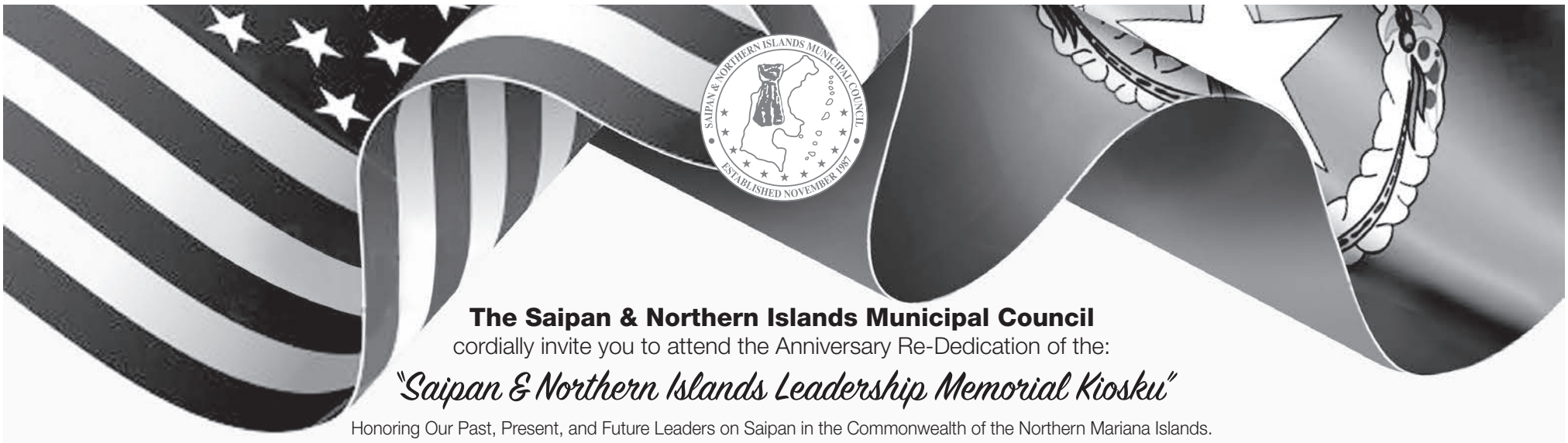
In its commitment to protect U.S. workers, USCIS required petitioning employers to attest, under penalty of perjury, that their business would likely suffer irreparable harm if they could not hire all their requested H-2B workers before the end of the fiscal year.

Some employers were also required to conduct a fresh round of recruitment efforts for U.S. workers before being allowed to petition for additional foreign workers.

Petitions that have been submitted but are not approved by USCIS before Oct.1 will be denied, and any associated fees will not be refunded.

USCIS will continue to accept fiscal year 2017 H-2B petitions for workers who are exempt from the congressionally mandated cap.

Additional information about how the supplemental fiscal year 2017 H-2B visas are being used, including information about the petitioning employers, can be found on the One-Time Increase in H-2B Nonimmigrant Visas for FY 2017 webpage. ***(USCIS)***



The Saipan & Northern Islands Municipal Council

cordially invite you to attend the Anniversary Re-Dedication of the:

"Saipan & Northern Islands Leadership Memorial Kiosku"

Honoring Our Past, Present, and Future Leaders on Saipan in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.
On the 29th of September 2017 • Nine o'clock in the morning at the Saipan & Northern Islands Leadership Kiosku
Tun Segundo Road, Chalan Kanoa (across the Main U.S. Post Office)

POST WORLD WAR II (1945 – 1947)
MAYORS
Elias Parung Sablan
Gregorio San Nicolas Sablan
Ignacio Villagomez Benavente
Juan Martinez Ada
Vidal Muna Camacho

US NAVAL ADMIN./ TRUST TERRITORY (1947 – 1976)
Deputy High Commissioner:
Juan Atalig Sablan

High Chief (Mayor):
Vicente Diaz Sablan
Luis Arriola Benavente

High Council
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Antonio Angailen
Antonio Arriola Shimizu
Antonio Romolor Mangarero
Blas Pangelinan Tenorio
Calistro Pangelinan Tenorio
Gregorio Tudela Camacho
Jesus Diaz Deleon Guerrero
Jesus Sablan Tudela
Joaquin Sablan Pangelinan
Jose Feha Sakisat
Jose Arriola Shimizu
Jose Sablan Pangelinan
Jose San Nicolas Attao
Juan Rabago Salas
Juan Blas Blanco
Manuel Fausto Aldan
Pedro Camacho Lifoifoi
William Sablan Reyes

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Jasinto Babauta Mendiola
Jesus Namauleg Leon Guerrero
Joaquin Cabrera Guerrero
Jose Feha Sakisat
Vicente Masga Sablan

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Isidoro Sablan Tudela
Joaquin Duenas Cepeda
Pedro Arriola Tenorio
Vicente Pangelinan Sablan

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Antonio Reyes Leon Guerrero
Bernardo Charfauros Guerrero
Blas Pangelinan Tenorio
Juan Taitano Concepcion
Manases Sablan Borja

CK-4
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Benigno Olupumwar Sablan
Joaquin Seman Villagomez
Juan Guerrero Deleon Guerrero
Juan Malus Tagabuel
Juan Teregeyo
Simon Itibus Kapileo

Susupe
Daniel Rios Quitugua
Francisco Deleon Guerrero Demapan
Francisco Diaz Borja
Jose Camacho Cabrera
Juan Aguon Sanchez
Mariano Aquino
Roman Manahane Benavente

San Antonio
Fernando Manahane Benavente
Jose Cabrera Castro
Jose Salas Sablan
Pedro Taisacan Nakatsukasa
Thomas Palacios Sablan

San Jose
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Estanislao Tudela Torres
Felix Fitial Rabauliman
Francisco Arriola Torres
Joaquin Mafnas Aquon
Jose Gogue

Garapan
Augustin Iglecias Celis
Calistro Sablan Cepeda
Jesus Arriola Torres
Juan Borja Tudela
Mariano Gumataotao Cabrera
Pedro Wesley Torres
Vicente Salas Sablan
William Salas Torres

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Joaquin Sablan Tudela
Jose Acosta Camacho
Jose Cruz Fejeran
Jose Masga Deleon Guerrero
Miguel Tudela Muna
Moses Tydingco Fejeran
Prudencio Mendiola Cabrera

San Roque
Angel Dela Cruz Atalig
Fermin Muna Sakisat
Gregorio Tudela Camacho
Juan Blanco Camacho
Juan Lizama Babauta
Jesus Palacios Boyer

Tanapag
Gregorio Blas Magofna
Juan Quitugua Norita
Jesus Selepeo Pua
Jose Blas Magofna
Jose Taman Norita
Pablo Namwaisei Igitol
Pedro Camacho Lifoifoi
Victorino Nekai Igitol

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Francisco Borja Kaipat, Pagan
Guillermo Somorang Taman, Agrihan
Ignacio Sablan Deleon Guerrero, Alimagan
Jose Sablan Pangelinan, Sariguan
Juan Aguon Rosario, Pagan

Marianas District Admin
Francisco Castro Ada

Superintendent of Education
William Sablan Reyes

Congress of Micronesia
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Dr. Carlos Sablan Camacho, MD
Dr. Francisco Taman Palacios, MD
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Felipe Quitugua Atalig
Felix Fitial Rabauliman
Herman Quitugua Deleon Guerrero
Herman Tudela Palacios
Jose Pangelinan Mafnas
Juan Atalig Sablan
Manuel Diaz Muna
Nicolas Taman Palacios
Olympio Tudela Borja
Oscar Cruz Rasa
Pedro Agulto Tenorio
Pedro Pangelinan Tenorio
William Salas Torre

Saipan Municipal Council
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Antonio A. Santos
Antonio Arriola Diaz
Antonio Basa Santos
Antonio Camacho Cabrera
Antonio M. Benavente
Antonio Reyes Leon Guerrero
Antonio Reyes Sablan
Antonio Sablan Deleon Guerrero
Antonio Santos Palacios
Antonio Lizama Taisacan
Antonio Taitano Salas
Benigno Olupumwar Sablan
Blas Pangelinan Tenorio
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Escolastica Tudela Cabrera
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Felicitas Pangelinan Abraham
Fermin M. Quitugua
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Francisco Borja Tudela
Francisco Deleon Guerrero Camacho
Francisco Sablan Pangelinan
Gabriel Flores Borja
Gonzalo Quitugua Santos
Gregorio Muna Quitugua
Gregorio Tudela Camacho
Henry Sablan Pangelinan
Isidro Atalig Sablan
Jesus Diaz Sablan
Jesus Manglona Concepcion
Joaquin B. Cruz
Joaquin Ito Pangelinan
Joaquin Pangelinan Villanueva
Joaquin Sablan Torres
Joaquin Sablan Tudela
Joaquin Seman Villagomez
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Jose Camacho Cabrera
Jose Duenas Dela Cruz
Jose Manglona Sablan
Jose Quitugua Deleon Guerrero
Jose Reyes Dela Cruz
Jose Sablan Pangelinan
Jose Salas Sablan
Jose San Nicolas Attao
Jose Santos Rios
Jose Terlaje
Juan Atalig Sablan
Juan Blas Blanco
Juan Charfauros Reyes
Juan Deleon Guerrero Demapan
Juan Manibusan Diaz
Juan Martinez Ada
Juan Rabago Salas
Luis Magofna
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Manuel Blas Sablan
Manuel Fausto Aldan
Manuel Diaz Muna
Manuel Manibusan Aldan
Pedro Rogolofoi Deleon Guerrero
Pedro Taisacan Nakatsukasa
Ricardo Reyes Duenas
Roman Sablan Palacios
Roman Toves Tudela
Thomas C. Dela Cruz
Thomas Palacios Sablan
Sylvio Castro Ada
Urbano Crisostimo Babauta
Vicente Naputi Santos
Vicente Reyes Sablan
Vicente Sablan Camacho
Vicente Taitingfong Camacho
William Sablan Reyes
William Salas Torres

Mariana Islands Legislature (Saipan District)
Antonio Reyes Deleon Guerrero
Antonio Roberto Camacho
Benedicto Taisacan
Daniel Pangelinan Castro
Dr. Benusto Rogolofoi Kaipat, MD
Dr. Ignacio Tamaoki dela Cruz, DVM
Felipe Agulto Salas
Francisco Castro Ada
Francisco Borja Kaipat
Francisco Manibusan Diaz
Francisco Mendiola Sablan
Herman Quitugua Deleon Guerrero
Herman Tudela Palacios
Herman Rogolofoi Guerrero
Jesus Pangelinan Mafnas
Jesus Sablan Deleon Guerrero
Jesus Villagomez Deleon Guerrero
Jose Camacho Cabrera
Juan Camacho Diaz
Juan Leon Guerrero Cabrera
Juan San Nicolas Pangelinan
Leon Taitingfong Camacho
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Luis Marciano limes
Manuel Diaz Muna
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Norman Takai Tenorio
Olympio Tudela Borja
Oscar Cruz Rasa
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Ricardo Reyes Duenas
Santiago Blas Magofna
Vicente Naputi Santos
Vicente Santos Borja
Vicente Taitingfong Camacho
William Sablan Reyes

COMMONWEALTH (March 1976 – Present)
Political Status Commission (Covenant Negotiators)
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Felipe Atalig Salas
Felix Fitial Rabauliman
Herman Quitugua Deleon Guerrero
Jesus Garrido Villagomez
Joannes Ramos Taimanao
Joaquin Ito Pangelinan
Joaquin Sablan Torres
Jose Camacho Tenorio
Jose Cruz Tenorio
Juan Leon Guerrero Cabrera
Juan Pangelinan Tenorio
Juan Sablan Demapan
Luis Marciano Limes
Magdalena Castro Camacho
Manuel Atalig Sablan
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Oscar Cruz Rasa
Pedro Agulto Tenorio
Ramon Garrido Villagomez
Vicente Naputi Santos
Vicente Taitingfong Camacho

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Senate:
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Juan Pan Tenorio Guerrero *(Jan.86-Jan.90)*
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Juan Sablan Torres *(Jan.90-Jan.94)*
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Maria Tudela Pangelinan *(Jan.2006-Jan.2010)*
Olympio Tudela Borja *(Jan.82-Jan.86)*
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Pete Pangelinan Reyes *(Jan.98-Jan.2015)*
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Thomas Pangelinan Villagomez *(Jan.94-Jan.2006)*

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Alice Santos Igitol *(Jan.2017-Jan.2019)*
Alonzo Igisomar *(Jan.78-Jan.80)*
Alvaro Arriola Santos *(Jan.94-Jan.96)*
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Andrew Sablan Salas *(Jan.2002-Jan.2004)*
Angel Aldan Demapan *(Jan.2015-Jan.2017), (Jan.2017-Jan.2019)*
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Antonio Sablan Deleon Guerrero *(Jan. 78-Jan. 80)*
Arnold Indalecio Palacios *(Jan.2002-Jan.2010)*
Benigno Repeki Fitial *(Jan. 80-Jan.88), (Jan.2000-Jan.2002), (Jan.2004-Jan.2006)*
Benigno Magofna Sablan *(Jan.84-Jan.90)*
Benjamin Ayuyu Sablan *(Jan.94-Jan.96)*
Benjamin Benavente Seman *(Jan.2002-Jan.2008)*
Bernadita Takeda Seman *(Jan.98-Jan.2000)*
Blas Jonathan "BJ" Tenorio Attao *(Jan.2015-Jan.2017),(Jan.2017-Jan.2019)*
Brigida Deleon Guerrero Ichihara *(Jan.2000-Jan.2002)*
Candido Babauta Taman *(Jan.2006-Jan.2008)*
Christina Marie Elsie Sablan *(Jan.2008-Jan.2010)*
Christopher Duenas Leon Guerrero *(Jan.2013-Jan.2015)*
Claudio Kotomor Norita *(Jan.2004-Jan.2006)*
Crispin Iglecias Deleon Guerrero *(Jan.92-Jan.94), (Jan.96-Jan.98)*
David Castro Sablan *(Jan.88-Jan.90)*
David Mundo Apatang *(Jan.96-Jan.2002), (Jan.2004-Jan.2006), (Jan.2008-Jan.2010)*
Diego Tenorio Benavente *(Jan.90-Jan.2002), (Jan.2008-Jan.2011)*
Donald Cabrera Barcinas *(Jan.2017-Jan.2019)*
Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez *(Jan.2010-Jan.2013), (Jan.2013-Jan.2015), (Jan.2015-Jan.2017),(Jan.2017-Jan.2019)*
Edward Masga Deleon Guerrero *(Jan.86-Jan.88)*
Edward Tudela Salas *(Jan.2008-Jan.2010)*
Edwin Kenneth Propst *(Jan.2015-Jan.2017), (Jan.2017-Jan.2019)*
Egredino Mendiola Jones *(Jan.80-Jan.82), (Jan.96-Jan.2002)*
Eliceo Diaz Cabrera *(Jan.2010-Jan.2013)*
Estanislao Tudela Torres *(Jan.90-Jan.98), (Jan.2000-Jan.2004), (Jan. 2006-Jan.2013)*
Felicidad Taman Ogumoro *(Jan.78-Jan.82), (Jan.2010-Jan.2013) (Jan.2013-Jan.2015), (Jan.2015-Jan.2017)*
Felipe Quitugua Atalig *(Jan.80-Jan.82)*
Florencio Tenorio Deleon Guerrero *(Jan.2000-Jan.2002), (Jan.2006-Jan.2008)*
Francis Songsong Taimanao *(Jan.2015-Jan.2017)*
Francisco Arriola Flores *(Jan.92-Jan.94)*
Francisco Concepcion Aguon *(Jan.2017-Jan.2019)*
Francisco Deleon Guerrero Aldan *(Jan. 2002-Jan.2004)*
Francisco Deleon Guerrero Camacho *(Jan.86-Jan.88), (Jan.92-Jan.94)*
Francisco Santos Dela Cruz *(Jan.2006-Jan.2013), (Jan.2013-Jan.2015), (Jan.2017-Jan.2019)*
Frank Deleon Guerrero Cepeda *(Jan.98-Jan.2000)*
Fredrick Peters Deleon Guerrero *(Jan.2010-Jan.2013)*
Froilan Cruz Tenorio *(Jan.2010-Jan.2013)*
Gabriel Boki Babauta *(Jan.88-Jan.92)*
George Norita Camacho *(Jan.2010-Jan.2013) (Jan.2013-Jan.2015), (Jan.2015-Jan.2017)*
Gloria Annette Dela Cruz Cabrera *(Jan. 2002-Jan.2004)*
Gregorio Bermudes Sablan *(Jan.86-Jan.90)*
Gregorio Muna Sablan, Jr. *(Jan.2017-Jan.2019)*
Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan *(Jan.82-Jan.86)*
Heinz Sablan Hofschneider *(Jan.92-Jan.2006) (Jan.2008-Jan.2010)*
Herman Rogolifoi Guerrero *(Jan.84-Jan.86)*
Herman Tenorio Guerrero *(Jan.92-Jan.94)*
Herman Tudela Palacios *(Jan.92-Jan.96), (Jan.98 -Jan.2000), (Jan.2002-Jan.2004)*
Ignacio Deleon Guerrero Demapan *(Jan.84-Jan.86)*
Ivan Alafanso Blanco *(Jan.2017-Jan.2019)*
Jacinta Matagolai Kaipat *(Jan.2006-Jan.2008)*
Janet Ulloa Maratita *(Jan.2004-Jan.2006),(Jan.2011-Jan.2013), (Jan.2013-Jan.2015),(Jan.2017-Jan.2019)*
Jesus Arriola Sonoda *(Jan.78-Jan.80), (Jan.82-Jan.84)*
Jesus Sablan Deleon Guerrero *(Jan.78-Jan.80)*
Jesus Pangelinan Mafnas *(Jan.92-Jan.96)*
Jesus San Nicolas Lizama *(Jan.2004-Jan.2008)*
Jesus Torres Attao *(Jan.90-Jan.2006)*
Joaquin Ito Pangelinan *(Jan.80-Jan.82)*
Joaquin Pangelinan Villanueva *(Jan.78-Jan.80)*
Jose Camacho Cabrera *(Jan.84-Jan.86)*
Jose Mettao Taitano *(Jan.82-Jan.84)*
Jose Rebuenog Lifoifoi *(Jan.78-Jan.88), (Jan.82-Jan.88)*
John Paul Palacios Sablan *(Jan.2013-Jan.2015), (Jan.2015-Jan.2017),(Jan.2017-Jan.2019)*
Jose Ilo Itibus *(Jan.2017-Jan.2019)*
Joseph Castro Reyes *(Jan.2008-Jan.2010)*
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Joseph Mafnas Palacios *(Jan.2010-Jan.2013)*
Joseph Pinaula Deleon Guerrero *(Jan.2002-Jan.2013),(Jan.2013-Jan.2015), (Jan.2015-Jan.2017),(Jan.2017-Jan.2019)*
Juan Blanco Camacho *(Jan.82-Jan.84)*
Juan Borja Tudela *(Jan.82-Jan.86)*
Juan Deleon Guerrero Demapan *(Jan.84-Jan.86)*
Juan Iguel Tenorio *(Jan.90-Jan.92)*
Juan Pan Tenorio Guerrero *(Jan.84-Jan.86)*
Juan Sablan Reyes *(Jan.88-Jan.92)*
Juan Sablan Torres *(Jan.84-Jan.90)*
Justo Songao Quitugua (Jan.2004-Jan.2010)
Karl Tudela Reyes *(Jan.96-Jan.2000)*
Lorenzo Iglecias Deleon Guerrero *(Jan.2013-Jan.2015), (Jan.2015-Jan.2017), (Jan.2017-Jan.2019)*
Luis Manibusan Cepeda *(Jan.82-Jan.84)*
Luis Arriola Benavente *(Jan.86-Jan.88)*
Luis Cepeda Benavente *(Jan.90-Jan.92)*
Mametto Ulloa Maratita *(Jan.90-Jan.96)*
Manases Sablan Borja *(Jan.78-Jan.80)*
Manuel Agulto Tenorio *(Jan.94-Jan.2000), (Jan.2002-Jan.2004), (Jan.2006-Jan.2008)*
Manuel Cabrera Sablan *(Jan.88-Jan.92)*
Maria Taisakan Peter *(Jan.94-Jan.2002)*
Mariano Reyes Bermudes *(Jan.88-Jan.90)*
Mariano Taitano *(Jan.2013-Jan.2015)*
Martin Borja Ada *(Jan.2000-Jan.2008)*
Martin Maratita Taisacan *(Jan.82-Jan.84)*
Maximo Lairopi Olopai *(Jan.98-Jan.2000)*
Maximo Torres Attao *(Jan.86-Jan.88)*
Melvin Lawrence Odoshi Faisao *(Jan.96-Jan.2000)*
Micheal Pangelinan Tenorio *(Jan.96-Jan.98)*
Miguel Igisaiar Kileleman *(Jan.78-Jan.80)*
Miguel Mendiola Sablan *(Jan.82-Jan.84)*
Moses Tydingco Fejeran *(Jan.88-Jan.90)*
Oscar Manglona Babauta *(Jan.94-Jan.2010)*
Oscar Cruz Rasa *(Jan.78-Jan.82)*
Pedro Cogure Arriola *(Jan.86-Jan.88)*
Pedro Pangelinan Castro *(Jan.2002-Jan.2004)*
Pedro Rogolofoi Deleon Guerrero *(Jan.84-Jan.94)*
Pedro Sablan Arriola *(Jan.90-Jan.92)*
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Ralph Naraja Yumul *(Jan.2013-Jan.2015), (Jan.2015-Jan.2017)*
Ramon Angailen Tebuteb *(Jan.2002-Jan.2013),(Jan.2013-Jan.2015), (Jan.2015-Jan.2017)*
Ramon Concepcion Dela Cruz *(Jan.94-Jan.96)*
Ramon Sablan Basa *(Jan.2010-Jan.2013)*
Ray Naraja Yumul *(Jan.2004-Jan.2013)*
Raymond Demapan Palacios *(Jan.2008-Jan.2013)*
Richard Benavente Seman *(Jan.2013-Jan.2015)*
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Rosiky Flores Camacho *(Jan.96-Jan.2002)*
Rosemond Blanco Santos *(Jan.2008-Jan.2010)*
Sylvestre Ilo Iguel *(Jan.2010-Jan.2013)*
Thomas Basa Pangelinan *(Jan.2000-Jan.2002)*
Thomas Pangelinan Villagomez *(Jan.90-Jan.94)*
Timothy Pangelinan Villagomez *(Jan.2004-Jan.2006)*
Vicente Cabrera Deleon Guerrero *(Jan.82-Jan.84)*
Vicente Masga Sablan *(Jan. 80-Jan.90)*
Vicente Torres Attao *(Jan.80-Jan.82), (Jan.94-Jan.96)*
Vinson Edward Flores Sablan *(Jan.2015-Jan.2017),(Jan.2017-Jan.2019)*
William Castro Ada *(Jan.86-Jan.92)*
William Sablan Torres *(Jan.2000-Jan.2004)*

U.S. Representative:
Edward Deleon Guerrero Pangelinan *(Jan.78-Jan. 84)*
Froilan Cruz Tenorio *(Jan.84-Jan.90)*
Juan Nekai Babauta *(Jan.90-Jan.98)*

Washington Representative:
Juan Nekai Babauta *(Jan.98-Jan.2002)*
Pedro Agulto Tenorio *(Jan.2002-Jan.2009)*

Delegate to the U.S. Congress:
Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan *(Jan.2009-Jan.2013), (Jan.2013-Jan.2015), (Jan.2015-Jan.2017),(Jan.2017-Jan.2019)*

Mayor of Saipan:
David Mundo Apatang *(Jan.2015-Jan.2019)*
Donald Glenn Pangelinan Flores *(Jan.2010-Jun. 2014)*
Francisco Manibusan Diaz *(Jan.78-Jan.82)*
Gilbert Castro Ada *(Jan.86-Jan.89)*
Jesus Sablan Deleon Guerrero *(Jan.90-Jan.98)*
Jose Camacho Sablan *(Jan.98-Jan.2002)*
Jose Mettao Taitano *(Jan.89-Jan.90)*
Jose Santos Rios *(Jan.82-Jan.86)*
Juan Borja Tudela *(Jan.2002-Jan.2010)*

Mayor of Northern Islands:
Ambrosio Satur Ruben *(Jan.90-Jan.94)*
Daniel Pangelinan Castro *(Jan.78-Jan.86)*
Francisco Jerome K. Aldan *(Jan.2015-Jan.2019)*
Tobias Dela Cruz Aldan *(Jan.2010-Jan.2015)*
Joseph Taman Ogumoro *(Jan.94-Jan.2002)*
Valintin Igisaiar Taisakan *(Jan.2002- Jan.2010)*
Vicente Matagolai Aldan *(Jan.86-Jan.90)*

Saipan & N.I. Municipal Council:
Alexander Colonel Pangelinan Sablan *(Jan.2002-Jan. 2004)*
Alice Santos Igitol *(Jan.2015-Jan.2017)*
Angel Songao Hocog *(Jan. 2006 – Jan. 2008)*
Antonia Manibusan Tudela *(Jan.98-Jan.2000), (Jan.2004-Jan.2010) (Jan.2013-Jan.2015), (Jan.2015-Jan.2017)*
David Aldan Indalecio *(Jan. 2000-Jan.2006)*
David Lian Igitol *(Jan.90 – Jan.2000)*
David Mundo Apatang *(Jan. 94 - Jan.96)*
Diego Litulumar Kaipat *(Jan.2017-Jan.2019)*
Eloy Songao Inos *(Jan.90 – Jan.92)*
Eric Demapan Diaz *(Jan.2010 –Jan.2013)*
Felipe Quitugua Atalig *(Jan.2008 – Jan.2010)*
Francisco Deleon Guerrero Crisostomo *(Jan.90 – Jan.92)*
Francisco Quitugua Deleon Guerrero *(Jan.92 - Jan.94)*
Gregorio Villagomez Deleon Guerrero *(Jan. 2000-Jan.2006)*
Jose Deleon Guerrero Sanchez *(Jan.96 – Jan.98)*
Jesus San Nicolas Lizama *(Jan. 2000-Jan.2002)*
Lareina Castro Camacho *(Jan.2015-Jan.2017)*
Luis John Deleon Guerrero Castro *(Jan.2017-Jan.2019)*
Magdalena Tudela Sablan *(Jan.98-Jan.2000)*
Marian Deleon Guerrero Tudela *(Jan. 94 - Jan.98), (Jan.2006-Jan.2008)*
Pedro Taisacan Nakatsukasa *(Jan.92 - Jan.94)*
Ramon Jose Blas Camacho *(Jan.2008 – Jan.2013), (Jan.2013-Jan.2015)*

Board of Education:
Anthony Pellegrino *(Jan.98-Jan.2002)*
Daniel Ogo Quitugua *(Jan.94-Jan.98)*
Egredino Mendiola Jones *(Jan.2004 – Jan.2008)*
Esther Sablan Fleming *(Jan.96-Jan.2002)*
Galvin Sablan Deleon Guerrero *(Jan. 2008 – Jan. 2012)*
Henry Iglecias Sablan *(Jan.92-Jan.94)*
Herman Tenorio Guerrero *(Jan.2002 - Jan.2004),(Jan.2006-Jan.2013), (Jan.2015-Jan.2019)*
Janice Marie Ada Tenorio *(Jan.2013-Jan.2017),(Jan.2017-Jan.2021)*
Juan Borja Tudela *(Jan.88-Jan.92)*
Juan Lizama Babauta *(Jan. 90 – Jan. 94)*
Luis Marciano Limes *(Jan.88-Jan 90)*
Maria Anicia Quitugua Tomokane *(Jan.88-Jan.92)*
Maria Taisakan Peter *(Jan.92-Jan.94)*
Marylou Seman Ada *(Jan. 2008-Jan.2012), (Jan.2013-Jan.2017), (Jan.2017-Jan.2021)*
Roman Cepeda Benavente *(Jan.2000-Jan.2002), (Jan.2004-Jan.2008)*
Thomas Basa Pangelinan *(Jan.96-Jan.2000)*

1st Constitutional Convention Elected 1976
Antonio Muna Camacho
Benigno Repeki Fitial
Daniel Pangelinan Castro
David Quichocho Maratita
Dr. Carlos Sablan Camacho,MD
Dr. Francisco Taman Palacios,MD
Felipe Quitugua Atalig
Felix Aldan Ayuyu
Herman Quitugua Deleon Guerrero
Jesus Garrido Villagomez
Joaquin Sablan Torres
Jose Pangelinan Mafnas
Jose Santos Borja
Juan Deleon Guerrero Demapan
Juan Pangelinan Tenorio
Juan Sablan Demapan
Lorenzo Iglecias Deleon Guerrero
Luis Arriola Benavente
Luis Marciano Limes
Magdalena Castro Camacho
Manuel Agulto Tenorio
Olympio Tudela Borja
Oscar Cruz Rasa
Pedro Juarez Lian Igitol
Ramon Garrido Villagomez
Vicente Torres Attao

Second Constitutional Convention- Elected 1985
Alonzo Igisomar
David Lian Igitol
Dr. Benusto Rogolifoi Kaipat,MD
Felicidad Taman Ogumoro
Francisco Cepeda Tomokane
Herman Tenorio Guerrero
Ignacio Pangelinan Villanueva
Jesus Pangelinan Mafnas
Joaquin Agulto Tenorio
Juan Tudela Lizama
Karl Tudela Reyes
Lorenzo Iglecias Deleon Guerrero
Luis Marciano Limes
Maria Tudela Pangelinan
Ramon Garrido Villagomez
William Sablan Torres

3rd Constitutional Convention Elected 1995
Bernadita Takeda Seman
David Lian Igitol
David Quichocho Maratita
Donald Benavente Mendiola
Dr. Carlos Sablan Camacho,MD
Dr. Helen Taro Atalig,MD
Dr. Vicente Sablan Aldan,MD
Esther Sablan Fleming
Felix Rasiang Nogis
Frances Leon Guerrero Borja
Herman Tenorio Guerrero
Joaquin Pangelinan Villagomez
John Oliver Delos Reyes Gonzales
Jose Rebuenog Lifoifoi
Juan Sablan Tenorio
Justo Songao Quitugua
Lillian Ada Tenorio
Marian Deleon Guerrero Aldan-Pierce
Mariano Taitano
Marylou Seman Ada
Thomas Benavente Aldan

Retained Superior Court Judge:
Presiding Judge Robert Camacho Naraja *(3/2009-3/2015), (3/2015-3/21/21)*
Associate Judge David Arthur Wiseman *(3/2007-3/2013), (3/2013-5/24/2016)*
Associate Judge Joseph James Norita Camacho *(11/10/2017 – 11/09/2023)*
Associate Judge Juan Tudela Lizama *(7/2004-3/2008)*
Associate Judge Kenneth Lewis Govendo *(5/2009-5/2015), (5/2015-5/2021)*
Associate Judge Ramona Villagomez Manglona *(5/2009- 8/2011)*

Retained Supreme Court Justice:
Chief Justice Miguel Sablan Demapan *(7/2007-9/2011)*
Associate Justice Alexandro Cruz Castro *(7/2006-7/2014)*
Associate Justice John Atalig Manglona *(5/2008-5/2016), (5/2016-5/2024)*

Attorney General
Edward Eladio Manibusan *(Jan.2015-Jan.2019)*

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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EDITORIAL

Who's the madman, Kim or Trump?

President Donald Trump has hurled plenty of harsh words at North Korea before, but nothing approaches his promise at the United Nations that if forced to defend itself or its allies, the United States would "totally destroy" the country. He did not promise a military response of unprecedented size and strength, as he has before. He did not even threaten "fire and fury," as he had in some previous, ad libbed remarks. Speaking from a prepared speech in front of leaders and diplomats from more than 100 countries, the president of the United States pledged to wipe an entire nation off the face of the Earth. Soviet Premier Nikita Kruschev's 1956 boast that "we will bury you" left open some room for interpretation; this did not.

Trump seems to ascribe to the theory that North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un (or "rocket man," as the president has taken to calling him) only understands threats and only responds to force. There is, of course, no evidence that he or any of his predecessors has been cowed by such tactics. But even if Trump is right, he has dangerously escalated his rhetorical war by threatening not just the Kim government or the North Korean military but the entire nation and its 25 million people. Heaven forbid, should we ever find ourselves in military conflict with North Korea, President Trump has made the fight all the more difficult and dangerous by proclaiming that our aim would be not just regime change or an end to the country's nuclear and ballistic missile programs but what sounds an awful lot like genocide.

The United States is not generally a pacifist country. It has regularly engaged its military in conflicts around the globe—including some notable occasions when it should not have—and trust in and respect for the armed forces has been higher than that for nearly any other institution in the nation for generations. But we are not warmongers. We are not bloodthirsty conquerors. We measure our worth in freedom, justice and opportunity, not bombs and guns. And we expect our presidents to treat the possibility of military action as a refuge of last resort, not the subject of testosterone-fueled rants.

We have no quibble with the president's denunciations of the Kim regime as "depraved" and oppressive. It shows no respect for human rights, and its nuclear and missile programs indeed represent a threat to innocent people across the globe. But Trump is both threatening even greater harm to the North Korean people than its own government has inflicted and is only increasing the likelihood that the Kim regime will consider it necessary to maintain its nuclear program or even launch a first strike.

There are no good solutions to the threat posed by North Korea, and there never have been. But President Trump's threats only make the situation more dire and the options worse.

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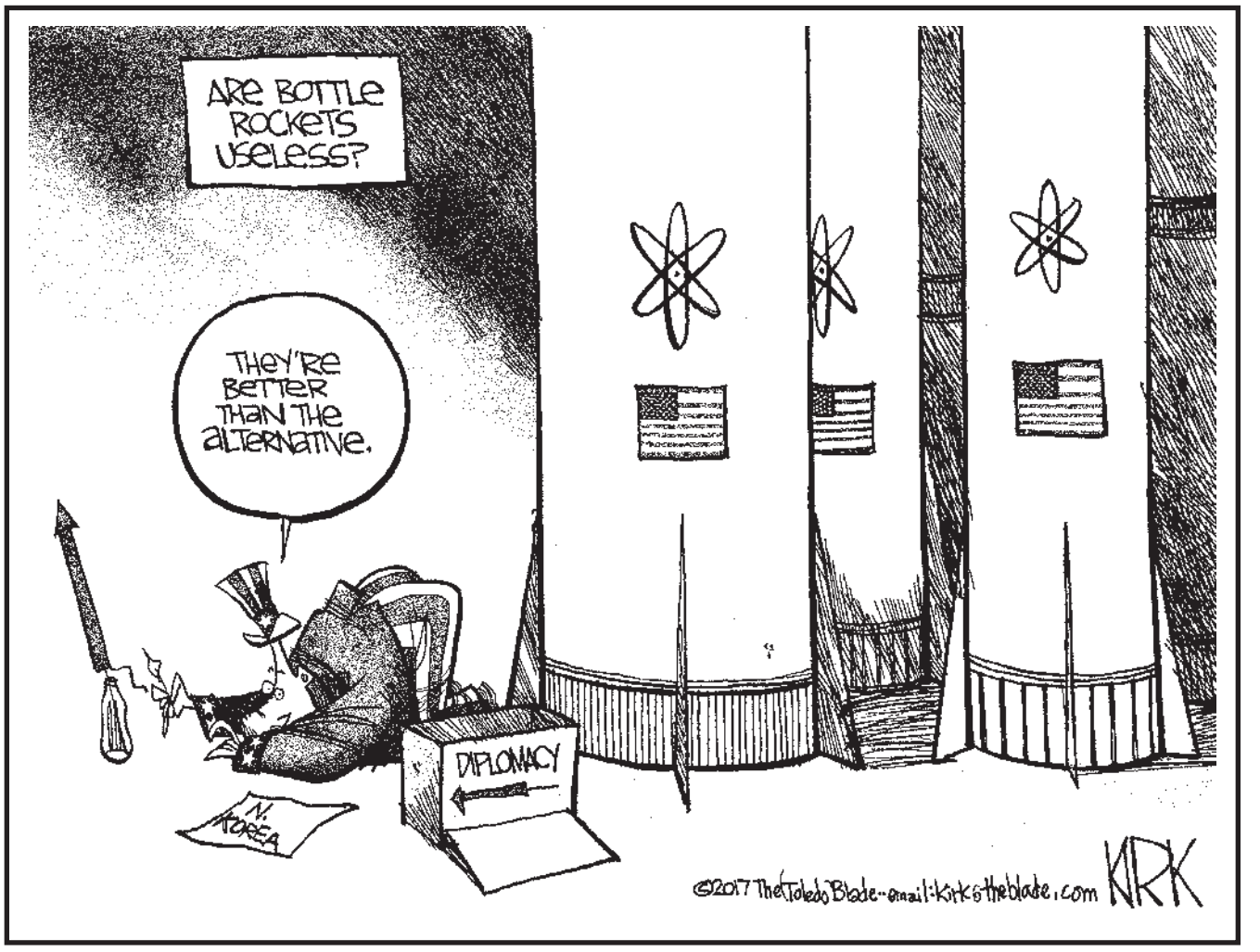


Open letter to the people of the CNMI

Editor's Note: The following was originally published in the opinion section of the Saipan Tribune in June 2016. It is being republished here at the request of the author. It is being published in two parts; this is the second part.

Last of two parts

By DAVID M. SABLAN SR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

David M. Sablan Sr. is a former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce and a retired executive of TanHoldings Corp.

1) **Promotion of tourism destination:**
The Marianas Visitors Authority is doing an effective job of promoting the CNMI as "*a premier tourist destination."* It is anticipated that arrivals will definitely increase over the next several years. Based on available information and based on projections, there will be a need for rooms to accommodate visitors of 946,500 room nights. At an average three nights occupancy per room, we are looking at 7,780 hotel rooms should be available by year 2021. The result of the projected influx of tourists/visitors to the CNMI looks very promising. We must therefore be prepared to cope with the anticipated increase in arrivals. We must collaborate with our government as well as the pertinent agencies of the U.S. government to complement our needs for a successful economic development.

2) **Identify needs of the industry- bring them to fruition:**
a) The business community and the CNMI government must work closely to solve the most critical issue facing us today: nonresident workers.

Even if we reduce the size of the CNMI government and train local residents (U.S. citizens) to take on jobs presently held by nonresident workers, there are not enough local manpower to satisfy the needed numbers. Subject to verification, the estimated number of government workers is approximately 4,000. Several months ago, the CNMI Department of Labor estimated the number of unemployed is 10,000. This number should be segregated by age and job classification or proficiency. We will then be able to identify what jobs might be available to accommodate the 10,000 or so unemployed.

b) We in the CNMI can no longer handle the growth of our economy without an external element. Over the years we have witnessed the growth of our economy. Such growth demands skilled and unskilled workers. The local residents who are willing and able to work will no doubt find a job. But the local source will never be able to fully accommodate the total need of our economy. The answer therefore is quite obvious: nonresident workers.

3) **Seek the understanding and support of the U.S. government:**

a) Those of us in the business community are painfully aware of our critical need for imported workers. Over the years we have learned to rely on these workers to enhance the needed manpower. Many of these workers, (majority of whom are from the Republic of the Philippines), have been in the CNMI for over 20 years or more. The CNMI hase become their home. They have children born in the CNMI and are U.S. citizens.

b) We should ask our leaders in the CNMI government and Delegate Greg Kilili C. Sablan to provide for these Filipinos and their family members by granting them U.S. permanent resident status. I strongly believe that they truly deserve favorable consideration by the United States and grant them U.S. permanent residence in the CNMI. I suggest that Filipinos who have been in the CNMI *legally and continuously for a period of 10 years or longer* be extended U.S. permanent residence. I heard from a reliable source that, in the last U.S. Congress, the Senate passed legislation to grant permanent residence status to most CW workers (S. 744, immigration bill, 113th Congress)**.** But the provision died, along with the entire immigration bill, at the hands of Republicans who were opposed to "amnesty." Of course, CW workers were granted legal CW status, thus they are legally in the CNMI.

c) The above suggestion will reduce the need for CW-1 requirements. Anyone eligible for U.S. permanent residence as stated above must apply to ensure they qualify under the established regulation.

d) I for one feel that there are many deserving Filipinos who deserve our consideration and sincerely hope that our political leaders, especially Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, should be given full support as he deals with his colleagues in Congress and, hopefully, with the administration.

e) I have learned that during World War II, Filipinos were actively engaged in fighting during the battle of the Philippines. They were and still are staunchest allies of the United States of America today. The ethnic compatibility between Filipinos and the people of the Northern Mariana Islands are quite evidently favorable.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

If you won't pay a living wage, you shouldn't be in business

By TODD CARMICHAEL
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Todd Carmichael is the CEO and co-founder of La Colombe coffee roasters and cafes and host of the Travel Channel show Dangerous Grounds. *La Colombe is headquartered in Philadelphia and also has cafes in New York, Washington, Boston, Chicago and Los Angeles. He wrote this for the* Philadelphia Inquirer.

"I don't want to be in the business of eliminating jobs," U.S. Sen. Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania told a town hall meeting on Aug. 31.

I agree. We need more jobs that pay a decent, livable wage.

But that is where our agreements end. Because rather than focus on policies that create those well-paying jobs, Toomey denies his support for the one initiative that creates and sustains jobs above the poverty line: establishing a $15-an-hour minimum wage.

Toomey knows a person can't support a family on $7.25 an hour _ the current federal minimum wage. We all do. He said so at the town hall, where he also said, "That is why the government has programs to help them." What he ignores is that companies and consumers need a higher minimum wage, too.

I am living, breathing, profitable proof that raising the minimum wage is good for business and workers.

Our workforce, profitable companies and consumers as a whole need a minimum-wage raise. If even profitable, growing concerns like a coffee-roasting company can do it, so can others.

I'll go even further and say that unless you pay your employees a non-predatory living wage that keeps people and their families above the poverty line, you don't deserve to be in business. And you certainly don't deserve a tax break for creating predatory-pay "jobs."

Companies paying $7.25 an hour are cutting corners on human input. They are cheating the consumer by providing inferior services and products and leaving their businesses weaker, if not anemic and dangerously exposed to competition.

Corporations that provide the best services and products are the ones that succeed. The ones that race to the bottom will ultimately lose the race because there will always be someone willing to do it cheaper, or more sloppily, or with fewer quality controls.

Successful businesses evolve. They continually ask themselves what adjustments can be made to reach specific goals. Rather than laying the burden of the business on the shoulder of predatory pay, they make model adjustments and continue to put the employee at the center of the company. In exchange, they earn employee loyalty and a happier company, which creates a better customer experience, better products, better culture and brand. And, ultimately, a healthier, more profitable and faster-growing company.

These sorts of companies flourish, directly contradicting the notion that fair pay is bad for business and bad for America.

These sorts of companies are not isolated in noncompetitive arenas _ coffee retail is some of the most competitive territory in America today, and we are successful. Wegmans is leading the market in traditional groceries. Quiktrip is leading in convenience stores. And Costco is leading in bulk groceries. All are paying their employees living wages with good benefits.

Right now, close to 10 million Americans work full time and still live at or below the poverty line. These are people in minimum-wage jobs, called the "working poor," often with few or no benefits, struggling to support families on salaries that haven't had a federal increase in 10 years.

Nationally, the Raise the Wage Act needs more support, and Toomey needs to realize just how much this legislation would help everyone. The pro-business Republicans who want to know what needs to be done to create more good-paying jobs should know this bill is it. Over seven years, this legislation would raise the minimum wage to $15 an hour, allowing plenty of time for incremental implementation.

You want to run a profitable business? Then look at what works: paying employees a livable wage. It doesn't just make for happier employees, lower turnover and a better tax base _ it makes for happier customers who are willing to come back. It makes for a better bottom line.

That's how a tiny Philadelphia coffee roaster managed to spread nationally and grow into a $400 million market cap: by keeping people first.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

No changes for the Mariana Trench Marine National Monument

Some of you may have read the article that *The Washington Post* published early this week talking about Secretary Zinke's report, which is still in draft but was leaked from the White House. The draft report discusses 10 monuments. Zinke appears to make recommendations 1) regarding the sizes of the land based sites and 2) about the activities for the Pacific Remote Islands Area and American Samoa. No mention was made about the marine monuments in Hawaii and the Marianas.

As things look now, it does not appear like President Trump will open our Mariana Trench monument to industrial commercial fishing. Since most of our local people supports marine conservation, this is a good thing. Of the three units of the MTMNM, only the Islands Unit protects the water column (the Trench and the Volcanic units only protect the seabed). The Islands Unit is only 4.3 percent of the total U.S. exclusive economic zone surrounding the CNMI. We should be continuing to look at ways to work with the federal government to increase the total protected waters in the spirit of local and traditional practices for the benefit our children and grandchildren.

While the Trump administration continues its discussion, I again call on Gov. Torres to ask the federal government for co-management of our Mariana Trench monument. The monument in Hawaii is co-managed by the state government and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. The Chamorro and Carolinian people and our local government are deserving of equal treatment. Co-management is the best way we can ensure our voice is heard to protect ecological integrity and our cultural legacy.

We should be looking forward to getting President Trump's review behind us, so they can move forward with publishing the long-delayed monument management plan, which we hope will result in seeing more of the $3 million annual NOAA MTMNM budget coming to the CNMI, instead of staying in Hawaii.

And for the record, I have no idea what John Gourley is talking about when he comments that the Friends of the Marianas are supposedly requesting for 50 percent of the entire Marianas EEZ. The FOM has only asked that NOAA Sanctuaries consider our nomination of the existing boundaries.

Ignacio Cabrera
I Agag, Saipan

Two wrongs don't make one right

The decision by the Guam Senate Committee on Ethics to recommend the censure of Sen. Espaldon came as a surprise to some degree but anything is possible in politics. As for his guilt, it is still not clearly defined as the facts are left up to interpretation, with intent being the real deciding factor. I would like to believe that the senator had no ill intent and the assertion of him being compensated with travel and food to help GPSM is a bit of a stretch because he never received any financial gain. Heck, the CNMI just experienced the same thing with the plane ride and treats for our leaders when they went to Hong Kong. So much of this is up to interpretation, and not knowing the true politics of the committee is also something that needs to be considered. Were the members of the Ethics Committee truly objective and were any of these members already against the senator for political reasons? I am not saying they were biased but we really don't know the politics of this decision. In fact, it was stated by Sen. Estevez that, "it is imperative…to also understand that the realm of ethics, unlike that of law, is inherently subjective and that these findings and recommendations alone do not reflect on Sen. Espaldon's person or character."

Giving Rep. Propst credit for destroying the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board and for trying to destroy a senator is nothing to gloat about, which is what my critics are doing—celebrating destruction—but we still don't have the needed engine, which was and still is the people's goal. The two wrongs that Rep. Propst has alleged did not solve the problem to get it right at CUC. I'm sure some readers, especially my critics, still don't get it because trying to expose two wrongs still doesn't make anything right!

It should also be noted that the alleged ethics violation, that meals, airfare, and other travel expenses in at least one trip to Korea and several trips to Saipan during the negotiation for the power plant purchase and that a conflict of interest on the part of Espaldon when he brokered for GPSM, whose executives include his former chief of staff, Phil Roberto, and Robert and Amelia Toelkes, don't hold any real proof of intent to defraud anyone—nothing was a secret. In fact, if his position as a senator played on the Selection Committee, that is the fault of the committee to allow his position to play on them, which is not Sen. Espaldon's fault as he was not functioning as a senator!

The two wrongs alleged by Rep. Propst put all of us in a predicament of still needing a new engine, so where is his one right? What has Rep. Propst done to fix the problem is the true question that needs to be addressed. Destroying the board and the senator didn't do one thing to help us with getting the engine, which is the very core of my rationale on this issue. I am sure the average person care more about getting the engine than crediting Rep. Propst with destroying the board over allegations that still haven't been proven to this very day; just a belief of impropriety. No one knows the true intent of the senator's relations with GPSM but I'm sure we will find out when he finally gets a chance to defend himself as he was not afforded this opportunity by the committee. But there will always be those crying and screaming to sacrifice someone over finding a solution to the problem.

My critics should also wait until the full body of the Senate meets and makes a decision before gloating about the destruction of a senator because I'm sure it will be the senator's intent that must be judged in an objective forum. His actions only show that he tried to help, so proving he had ill intent will have to be the major question for the Guam Senate to ask. If intent can't be proven, then he should not be found guilty of anything other than helping people. We will see but I won't give credit to anyone destroying something but didn't lift a finger to try and fix the problem. The governor still needs help to fill the board and CUC still needs a generator so people should be asking Rep. Propst what is he doing to fix the problem instead of gloating over his destructive efforts?

For many of us, we want the engine first and foremost but I know for some they will have to suffer load-shedding to understand the wisdom of what I am really talking about when I say two wrongs alone will never equal one right!

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. South winds 5 to 15 mph.
▲87° ▼77°

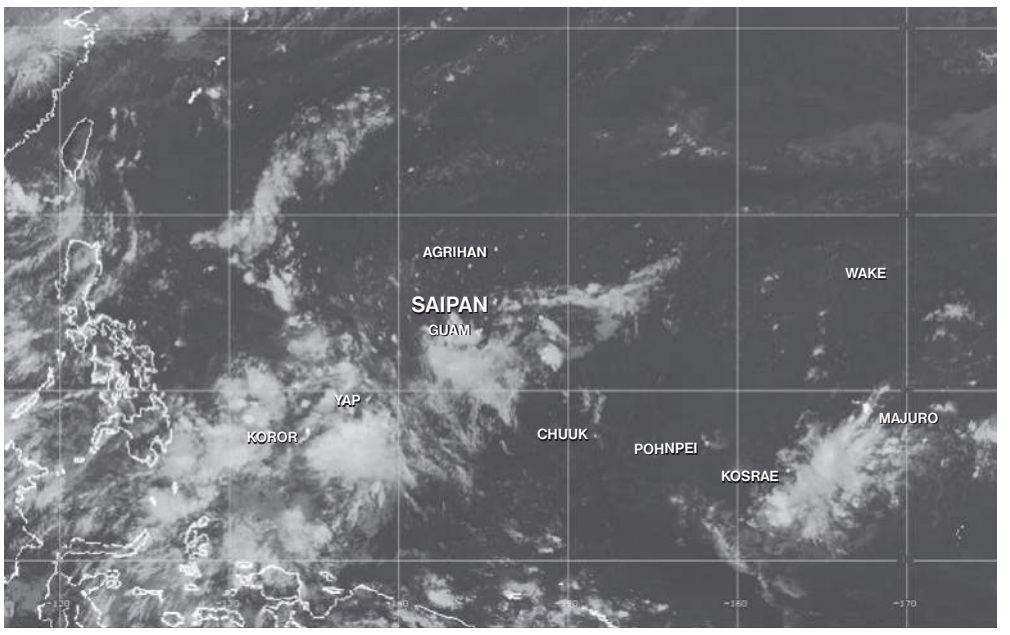
FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 5 to 10 mph becoming northeast Friday.
▲87° ▼77°

SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.
▲87° ▼77°

SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.
▲87° ▼77°

MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.
▲87° ▼77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:03 AM, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

As with Tuesday morning, I felt compelled to forecast scattered morning showers, in view of the large area of convection apparently barreling in from the east and southeast. By noon, we should be back to isolated showers and thunderstorms through Thursday. For Thursday night and Friday, a surface ridge will move by, with partly cloudy skies and only isolated showers before isolated thunderstorms return for Friday night. Have left scattered showers in for Sat-Mon night, but model support is divided, with a stronger signal from the ECMWF than from the GFS.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	87° / 79°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	61° / 54°
Beijing	Sunny	82° / 54°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	90° / 81°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	87° / 75°
London	Showers	64° / 46°
Los Angeles	Showers	74° / 60°
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	66° / 52°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	87° / 79°
New York	Partly Cloudy	83° / 65°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	82° / 70°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	64° / 46°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	79° / 66°
Rome	Sunny	73° / 54°
Salem	Thunderstorms	89° / 68°
San Francisco	Sunny	64° / 53°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	81° / 59°
Tokyo	Showers	77° / 66°
Washington, DC	Sunny	86° / 66°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
2:19 AM	LOW TIDE	0.45
8:02 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.94
2:35 PM	LOW TIDE	0.24
8:32 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.93

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:05 AM	6:14 PM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:13 PM
Saturday	6:06 AM	6:12 PM
Sunday	6:06 AM	6:11 PM
Monday	6:06 AM	6:11 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	6:43 am	7:05 pm	-
Friday	7:35 am	7:46 pm	-
Saturday	8:26 am	8:28 pm	-
Sunday	9:16 am	9:09 pm	-
Monday	10:05 am	9:52 pm	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
ZE582	3:40am	7:00am	Daily
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	4:45am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:00am	10:25am	1
JD396	4:50pm	8:15pm	4

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:00am	1, 2, 4, 6via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	3, 5, 7 via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:40pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:40pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	4:40am	8:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1, 2, 3
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
ZE581	9:00pm	2:40am+1	Daily
LJ651	10:00pm	3:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:10am	3:30pm	4
JD395	10:05pm	5:30am+1	7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:20am	3:00pm	Daily

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
PR110/UA6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:20pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:10pm	1:00am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA116/6395	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

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SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

Toys R Us joins bankruptcy list as Amazon exerts influence

AP

A customer walks into a Toys R Us store in Dallas, Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2017. Toys R Us has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection while continuing with normal business operations.

NEW YORK (AP)—In filing for bankruptcy, Toys R Us joins a list of dozens of store chains that have done so already this year as online leader Amazon increasingly exerts its influence over a huge part of the retailing world.

The toy chain, hobbled by $5 billion in debt and more intense competition, filed for protection from its creditors ahead of the key holiday season. Like so many retailers that find it harder to co-exist with Amazon, analysts say Toys R Us needs to improve its online services and offering special experiences in the stores.

For Toys R Us, that might be game demonstrations or hosting birthday parties. It says it'll keep its 1,600 Toys R Us and Babies R Us stores open, and keep serving customers while in bankruptcy. Still, the chain faces hurdles—price is a big issue for shoppers, and Toys R Us acknowledges that it can't compete there.

"We will go to Toys R Us to check out the current toys, and while we are at the store, we will be looking up prices on the phone on Walmart.com and Amazon," said Randy Watson of Fort Worth, Texas.

He used to pick up items at Toys R Us for his kids. But for his grandchildren, he uses the store to see what's available and then shops elsewhere to get lower prices.

Retail chains filing for bankruptcy in 2017

Following are some of the retailers that have sought bankruptcy protection just this year:

1.The Limited
2.Wet Seal(asterisk)
3.Eastern Outfitters
4.BCBG Max Azria
5.Vanity
6.Hhgregg
7.RadioShack(asterisk)
8.Gordmans
9.Gander Mountain
10.Payless ShoeSource (asterisk)
11.Rue21(asterisk)
12.Gymboree
13.Cornerstone Apparel, owner of Papaya Clothing
14.True Religion Apparel
15.Alfred Angelo
16.Perfumania
17.Vitamin World
18.Aerosoles
19.Toys R Us

* Second bankruptcy protection filing by Wet Seal and RadioShack. Payless ShoeSource emerged from bankruptcy protection in August, while Rue21 received court approval to emerge from bankruptcy last week. ***(AP)***

After dustup with boss, start from scratch or move on

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of Secrets to Winning at Office Politics. *Send in questions and get free coaching tips at http://www.yourofficecoach.com, or follow her on Twitter @ officecoach.*

Q: I recently got a new boss who is difficult and obnoxious. In my eight years with this company, "Carol" is the worst supervisor I have had. Ever since she arrived, she has treated me unfairly and underestimated my abilities.

After working with Carol for two weeks, I complained to human resources. At that time, I was going through a lot and not really thinking straight. Unfortunately, I found that Carol had already described her problems with me to the HR manager.

Having made a fool of myself with HR, I'm not sure what to do next. This situation with Carol just adds stress to my already stressful life. How should I deal with this?

A: While Carol may not be the boss you would choose, she is unfortunately the boss you have. As you recently discovered, complaining to management about a new supervisor can easily backfire and make a bad situation worse. If you had been thinking clearly, perhaps you would not have been so hasty.

At this point, you seem to have two choices. If working for Carol is truly unbearable, you can always decide to look elsewhere. In that case, it's time to polish up your resume and begin networking. But if you wish to keep this job, try to repair the relationship by acknowledging your mistake and attempting to correct her first impression.

For example: "Carol, I want to apologize for the comments I made to human resources. That was a very stressful time in my life, so I'm afraid I overreacted. My hope is that we can put this event behind us and start over. What could I do to better meet your expectations?"

If Carol is a mature manager, she will welcome this overture and forgive your lapse in judgment. But if she refuses to give you another chance, the job search is always an option.

Q: Before every holiday weekend, my wife's employer tells the staff that they can leave at 2 p.m. on Friday if their work is caught up. However, my wife is never caught up because her inbox is always full of client emails. She has 40 years of experience and is the top agent in the office.

On the other hand, the lazy millennials goof off all day and don't have much to do, so they always get to leave early. My wife is ready to quit over this slap in the face. What do you think about this?

A: I think this guy is extremely predictable, so I wonder why your wife doesn't simply anticipate his holiday season routine and act accordingly. If her boss sends this email "before every holiday," she should either make plans to empty her inbox or tell him why she can't.

As the top salesperson, your wife undoubtedly has some leverage. If she explains that ongoing communication with her many clients makes catching up impossible, he is likely to understand.

But if her manager is truly obsessive, then the wisest course would be to work on that backlog well before the holiday. She might also work on adopting a kinder attitude toward the younger generation.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Health benefit offers from small businesses keep vanishing

Only half of America's smallest businesses now offer health coverage to their workers because many say steady cost hikes have made it too expensive to afford a benefit that nearly all large employers still provide. The Kaiser Family Foundation said Tuesday that 50 percent of companies with three to 49 employees offered coverage this year. That's down from 59 percent in 2012 and 66 percent more than a decade ago. "There's just not as much money around for compensation, including benefits," said Gary Claxton, a Kaiser vice president and lead author of the nonprofit health policy organization's annual health benefits study. Employer-sponsored coverage is the most common form of health insurance in the United States, covering an estimated 151 million people under age 65, according to Kaiser. The federal Affordable Care Act requires all companies with 50 or more full-time employees to offer it. ***(AP)***

Senate GOP tentatively agrees to $1.5T plan on tax cuts

WASHINGTON (AP)—Senate Republicans are zeroing in on a tax outline that would add about $1.5 trillion to the government's $20 trillion debt over 10 years, justifying the spurt of red ink with promises of surging economic growth and a burst of new revenues. Tennessee Sen. Bob Corker, a member of the chamber's dwindling band of deficit hawks, and Sen. Pat Toomey, R-Pa., one of the chamber's more ardent believers that tax cuts can pay for themselves, said they sealed an agreement on Tuesday. The $1.5 trillion figure, confirmed by congressional officials familiar with the agreement, would allow deeper cuts to tax rates than would be allowed if Republicans followed through on earlier promises that their coming tax overhaul wouldn't add to the deficit. Deficits over the coming decade were already projected to add $10 trillion to the debt.

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22,370.80	2,506.65	6,461.32
+39.45	+2.78	+6.68
0.18%	0.11%	0.10%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.2431	Hong Kong Dollar	7.8059	Russian Ruble	58.0931
British Pound	0.7395	Indian Rupee	64.4811	Singapore Dollar	1.3451
Canadian Dollar	1.2280	Japanese Yen	111.4790	South Korean Won	1101.77
Chinese Yuan	6.4457	Malaysian Ringgit	4.1440	Swiss Franc	0.9627
Euro	0.8333	New Zealand Dollar	1.3579	Taiwan Dollar	29.5288
		Philippine Peso	49.9058	Thailand Baht	33.0215

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MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Nation

Hurricane Maria aims at Puerto Rico

A woman and a child rest on cots while waiting at Humacao Arena refugee center for the imminent impact of Maria, a Category 5 hurricane that threatens to hit the eastern region of the island with sustained winds of 175 miles per hour, in Humacao, Puerto Rico, Tuesday, September 19, 2017. AP

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—Hurricane Maria barreled toward Puerto Rico on Tuesday night after wreaking widespread devastation on Dominica and leaving the small Caribbean island virtually incommunicado.

As rains began to lash Puerto Rico, Gov. Ricardo Rossello warned that Maria could hit "with a force and violence that we haven't seen for several generations."

"We're going to lose a lot of infrastructure in Puerto Rico," Rossello said, adding that a likely island wide power outage and communication blackout could last for days. "We're going to have to rebuild."

Authorities warned that people in wooden or flimsy homes should find safe shelter before the storm's expected arrival Wednesday.

"You have to evacuate. Otherwise, you're going to die," said Hector Pesquera, the island's public safety commissioner. "I don't know how to make this any clearer."

By Tuesday night, the U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami said Maria's winds had intensified to 175 mph (280 kph) and additional strengthening was possible. At 11 p.m. EST, Maria was centered about 30 miles (45 kilometers) south-southeast of St. Croix, or 120 miles (190 kilometers) southeast of San Juan, Puerto Rico, and was moving west-northwest at 10 mph (17 kph).

Maria's center was expected to pass several miles south of St. Croix late Tuesday on its way to Puerto Rico, prompting U.S. Virgin Islands Gov. Kenneth Mapp to ask that people remain alert.

St. Croix was largely spared the widespread damage caused by Hurricane Irma on the chain's St. Thomas and St. John islands just two weeks ago. But this time, the island would experience five hours of hurricane force winds starting about 11 p.m. EST, Mapp said.

"For folks in their homes, I really recommend that you not be in any kind of sleepwear," he said during a brief press conference late Tuesday. "Make sure you have your shoes on. Make sure you have a jacket around. Something for your head in case your roof should breach. ... I don't really recommend you be sleeping from 11 o'clock to 4 (a.m.). ... Be aware of what's going on around you."

The warning came after Dominica Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit sent out a series of dramatic posts on his Facebook page as the storm blew over that tiny country late Monday—but then stopped suddenly as phone and internet connections with the country were cut.

"The winds are merciless! We shall survive by the grace of God," Skerrit wrote before communications went down.

A few minutes later, he messaged he could hear the sound of galvanized steel roofing tearing off houses on the small rugged island. He said that even his own roof had blown away.

In the last message before falling silent, he appealed for international aid: "We will need help, my friends, we will need help of all kinds."

The storm knocked out communications for the entire country, leaving anyone outside Dominica struggling to determine the extent of damage, though it was clearly widespread. "The situation is really grave," Consul General Barbara Dailey said in a telephone interview from New York.

She said she lost contact with the island about 4 a.m. At that point, officials had learned that 70 percent of homes had lost their roofs, including her own.

"I lost everything," she said, adding there had been no word on casualties. "As a Category 5 it would be naive not to expect any (injuries) but I don't know how many," she said.

The island's broadcast service was also down Tuesday and Akamai Technologies, a company that tracks the status of the internet around the world, said most of Dominica's internet service appeared to have been lost by midday.

ACROSS THE NATION

Sessions: Sanctuary cities undermine law's moral authority

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions on Tuesday criticized sanctuary cities that try to protect immigrants in the country illegally as places that "undermine the moral authority of the law." He made the comments a day after the Trump administration appealed a judge's ruling blocking its efforts to withhold money from the cities. Sessions, speaking to law enforcement officers in a sanctuary city in the sanctuary state of Oregon, urged officials who have decided that local police should not cooperate with federal immigration agents to reconsider those policies. As he spoke, protesters lined the streets outside the Portland field office of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. Their chants could faintly be heard inside the room where Sessions appeared.

Senate intelligence chairman: Facebook should testify

WASHINGTON (AP)—The chairman of the Senate intelligence committee says Facebook should testify as part of its probe into Russian meddling in the U.S. election, and that the social media giant "seems to have been less than forthcoming" with Congress. Sen. Richard Burr, R-N.C., said Tuesday that committee members agreed the panel should hold a public hearing after it was revealed earlier this month that hundreds of phony Facebook accounts, likely run from Russia, spent about $100,000 on ads aimed at stirring up divisive issues such as gun control and race relations during the 2016 campaign. The panel is one of several in Congress probing Russian interference and any connections to President Donald Trump's campaign.

Officer who shot Ga. Tech student had been on job 16 months

ATLANTA (AP)—The officer who fatally shot a Georgia Tech student had been with the campus police department for about 16 months, according to state records. Officer Tyler Beck shot and killed Scout Schultz, 21, Saturday night after the fourth-year student called 911 to report an armed and possibly intoxicated suspicious person, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation said. Beck is on paid leave pending the outcome of the investigation, Georgia Tech said on its website. Beck became an officer with the campus police department on May 21, 2016, according to records from the Peace Officer Standards and Training Council, or POST, which certifies law enforcement officers in Georgia. Georgia Tech has refused to release any personnel records for Beck.

St. Louis faith leaders urge peace, justice amid turmoil

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Leaders of several faiths on Tuesday called for peace and justice amid the turmoil that followed the acquittal of a white former St. Louis police officer in the 2011 death of a black man. Several hundred people gathered on a hot, unshaded public plaza for an interfaith service followed by a march to City Hall. The service came after four days of protests that followed a judge's decision Friday to acquit Jason Stockley of first-degree murder in the fatal shooting of 24-year-old Anthony Lamar Smith. Speakers at the service included Roman Catholic Archbishop Robert Carlson, black church pastors, and Jewish and Muslim leaders. "Let us remember that we are not a divided humanity, but a human family," Carlson said. "Let us show love instead of hatred." Several who spoke acknowledged the pain the ruling caused African-Americans in the community.

Washington state school shooting suspect pleads not guilty

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP)—A 15-year-old boy accused of killing a student at his rural Washington state high school and wounding three others has pleaded not guilty to charges of first-degree murder and attempted first-degree murder, according to court documents made public Tuesday. Caleb Sharpe, a sophomore at Freeman High School near the small town of Rockford, Washington, entered the pleas last Friday, the documents said. He made the appearance in juvenile court but authorities have the option of seeking to have him tried as an adult and Spokane County Sheriff Sheriff Ozzie Knezovich has said Sharpe should face adult charges.

White man arrested in slayings of 2 black men in Louisiana

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP)—A 23-year-old white man was arrested Tuesday and accused of cold-bloodedly killing two black men and shooting up a black family's home in a string of attacks last week that police say may have been racially motivated. A law enforcement official said authorities found a handwritten copy of an Adolf Hitler speech at Kenneth James Gleason's home, and investigators said surveillance footage and DNA on a shell casing link him to the crimes. Authorities said he would be charged with first-degree murder in the shooting deaths of a homeless man and a dishwasher who was walking to work. In each case, the killer opened fire from his car, then walked up to the victim as he lay on the ground and fired again repeatedly, police said.

Asia

MORE MISERY
Rohingya Muslims who crossed over recently from Myanmar into Bangladesh carry their belongings and move to find alternate shelter after rainwater inundated their camp near Balukhali refugee camp in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2017. More than 500,000 Rohingya Muslims have fled to neighboring Bangladesh in the past year, most of them in the last three weeks, after security forces and allied mobs retaliated to a series of attacks by Muslim militants last month by burning down thousands of Rohingya homes in the predominantly Buddhist nation. AP

Trump's N. Korea threat leaves Asia struggling to explain

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Was it a bluff? A warning that Washington would shoot down North Korea's next missile test? A restatement of past policy? Or simply just what it seemed: a straightforward threat of annihilation from the president of the United States?

Officials and pundits across Asia struggled Wednesday to parse Donald Trump's vow Tuesday at the U.N. General Assembly to "totally destroy North Korea" if provoked.

In a region well used to Pyongyang's pursuit of nuclear weapons generating a seemingly never-ending cycle of threats and counter-threats, Trump's comments stood out.

South Korea officially played them down, while some politicians worried that Trump's words signaled a loss of influence for Seoul. Tokyo focused on his mention of Japanese citizens abducted by the North. Analysts across Asia expressed surprise, worry, even wry amusement, in one case, that Trump's words seemed to mirror threats normally emanating from North Korean state media.

Amid the speculation, the focus of Trump's belligerence, North Korea, remained silent in the hours after the speech.

Officials from the office of South Korean President Moon Jae-in, a liberal who has advocated dialogue with the North while being forced into a hawkish position by the North's weapons tests, called Trump's words a signal of Washington's strong resolve to deal with the North, but also essentially a repetition of the basic stance that all options will be considered when confronting Pyongyang.

Trump has previously threatened the North with "fire and fury." Pyongyang responded to those past remarks with a string of weapons tests, including its sixth and most powerful nuclear detonation and two missiles that flew over U.S. ally Japan.

Park Soo-hyun, a Moon spokesman, said that Trump's comments "reaffirmed the need to put maximum sanctions and pressure against North Korea's nuclear and missile provocations" so that Pyongyang realizes that abandoning its nuclear weapons is the only way forward.

Marcus Noland, a North Korea specialist with the Peterson Institute for International Economics in Washington, said in an online post that Trump's threat will feed a long-standing North Korean narrative that claims that the United States poses an existential threat.

"With those words, President Trump handed the Kim regime the soundbite of the century. It will play on a continuous loop on North Korean national television," Noland wrote.

North Korea's regular weapons tests are an attempt to create an arsenal of nuclear missiles that can threaten U.S. troops throughout Asia and the U.S. mainland. Pyongyang tested its first two intercontinental ballistic missiles in July and claims that it can now accurately reach the U.S. homeland, though outside experts say the North may still need more tests before its weapons are fully viable. Each new test pushes the nation that much closer to that goal.

Some South Korean opposition politicians saw the comments as another sign that South Korea is losing its voice in international efforts to deal with the North's nuclear program.

Trump's U.N. speech came days after U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis created unease in South Korea by saying without elaboration that the United States has military options against North Korea that wouldn't involve the destruction of Seoul. The South Korean capital is within easy artillery range of the huge array of North Korean weapons dug in along a border only an hour's drive from greater Seoul's 25 million people.

Kim Su-min, a lawmaker in the People's Party, expressed worry that South Korean officials heard nothing from Washington before both Mattis' and Trump's remarks.

"The government should comprehensively review its diplomatic and national security system and do its absolute best so that our stance on critical issues related to the existence of our country and the lives of our people doesn't go ignored," Kim said.

Diplomacy meant to rid the North of its nukes has been moribund for years, and Pyongyang has made huge strides over the last several years in its quest for nuclear tipped missiles that can reach anywhere in the world. Trump has pushed Beijing, which is the North's only major ally, to do more to influence Pyongyang's behavior, so far to no avail.

A Chinese expert on North Korea was surprised by the vehemence of Trump's speech, saying "his rhetoric is full of military force."

Cheng Xiaohe of Renmin University said in an interview that he initially thought that "the U.S. had nearly declared war on North Korea." The speech signals that "if North Korea conducts another missile test, the U.S. is very likely to intercept."

ASIA BRIEFS

Blast at cement factory in southern Pakistan kills 5 people

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistani police say an accidental explosion at a cement factory in the country's south has killed at least five people. The casualties included two policemen, a paramilitary ranger and two factory workers. The blast also injured eight people. Amjad Shaikh, a senior police official in the southern town of Rohri where the factory is located, ruled out foul play in Tuesday's explosion. He says the blast happened during an inspection of explosives that the factory uses for mining, which required the presence of policemen. Shaikh said the inspection was part of security measures ahead of the main Shiite holy day of Ashoura.

Anti-nuclear weapons protesters scale Australian building

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Two anti-nuclear weapons campaigners scaled the entrance awning of Australia's foreign ministry and unfurled a banner on Wednesday to protest the government's failure to endorse a U.N. nuclear disarmament treaty. Gem Romuld and Papatya Danis spent three hours on the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade building near Parliament House in the national capital Canberra holding the banner: "Sign nuclear weapons ban treaty." Scores of police were soon on the scene and the two climbed down and were released without charge.

Defense chief: Philippine-wide martial law 'very remote'

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine defense secretary said Friday that President Rodrigo Duterte has considered the possibility of placing the entire country under martial rule over fears of planned left-wing protests getting out of control, but added that the prospect of such a step is "very remote." Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said Duterte has thought of expanding a previous declaration of martial law in the south to cover the entire Philippines due to fears the protests could spiral out of hand and threaten the government and public safety. Lorenzana, however, belittled the capability of left-wing activists to stage massive protests nationwide. One is planned for next Thursday to mark the anniversary of the 1972 martial law declaration by late dictator Ferdinand Marcos that was associated with massive human rights violations and muzzling of civil liberties.

World

Death toll from Mexico earthquake rises

AP
A construction worker searches a building that collapsed after an earthquake, in the Roma neighborhood of Mexico City, Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2017.

MEXICO CITY (AP)— Mexico's civil defense agency says the death toll has risen to 226 from Tuesday's magnitude 7.1 earthquake that knocked down dozens of buildings in Mexico City and nearby states.

The official Twitter feed of agency head Luis Felipe Puente said early Wednesday that 117 people were confirmed dead in Mexico City, and 55 died in Morelos state, which is just south of the capital. It said 39 are dead in Puebla state, where the quake was centered.

Twelve people died in Mexico State, which surrounds the capital, and three in Guerrero state. The count does not include one death reported by officials in Oaxaca state.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the magnitude 7.1 quake was centered near the Puebla state town of Raboso, about 76 miles (123 kilometers) southeast of Mexico City.

■■■

The Philippines says the powerful earthquake that rocked central Mexico has badly damaged its embassy in Mexico City, but the staffers were unhurt and there are so far no reports of casualty among the 60 members of the Filipino community in Mexico City.

It is also offering its sympathy to Mexico following Tuesday's powerful earthquake that killed at least 149 people and collapsed dozens of buildings in the capital and nearby states.

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella says: "Our thoughts and prayers are with the people of Mexico, especially the bereaved families, who were hit and affected by a magnitude 7.1 earthquake."

Philippine Ambassador to Mexico Eduardo de Vega says he and the embassy staff rushed out of the building when debris started falling and they all escaped unhurt. The Philippine Embassy occupies the first two floors of an eight-story office building in Mexico city's Cuauhtemoc neighborhood.

■■■

Mexico's president has issued a video statement urging people to stay calm in the aftermath of the powerful magnitude 7.1 earthquake that toppled dozens of buildings in Mexico City and in nearby states.

President Enrique Pena Nieto said in the message issued late Tuesday night that many people will need help, but the initial focus has to be on finding people trapped in wrecked buildings.

In his words, "The priority at this moment is to keep rescuing people who are still trapped and to give medical attention to the injured people."

Pena Nieto said that as of late Tuesday 40 percent of Mexico City and 60 percent of Morelos state have no electricity.

The earthquake occurred just two weeks after a magnitude 8.1 tremor in the south of the country caused more than 90 dead and caused buildings in Mexico City to sway for more than a minute. Tuesday was also the 32nd anniversary of the devastating 1985 earthquake that killed thousands of people in the capital.

■■■

Mexico's president says 22 people have died at a school that collapsed in the nation's capital due to Tuesday's 7.1 earthquake.

President Enrique Pena Nieto said that two of the bodies found were adults. It's not clear whether the deaths are already included in the overall toll of at least 149 across the country.

Pena Nieto visited the school late Tuesday. He said in comments broadcast online by Financiero TV that 30 children and eight adults were still reported missing.

Rescue workers were continuing to search and listening for sounds from the rubble.

■■■

The head of Mexico's civil defense agency says the nationwide death toll from Tuesday's earthquake has risen to 149.

Luis Felipe Puente said 55 people died in Morelos state, just south of the capital, while 49 died in Mexico City and 32 died in Puebla state, where the quake was centered. Ten people died in Mexico State, which surrounds the capital, and three in Guerrero state. The count did not include one death reported by officials in Oaxaca state.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the magnitude 7.1 quake was centered near the Puebla state town of Raboso, about 76 miles (123 kilometers) southeast of Mexico City.

■■■

Buildings collapsed, including the town hall and local church, in the town of Jojutla in southern Morelos state, which was close to the epicenter of Tuesday's magnitude 7.1 quake. Twelve people died in the town.

The Instituto Morelos secondary school partly collapsed, but school director Adelina Anzures said the earthquake drill the school held in the morning came in handy just two hours later when the real quake struck.

"I told them that it was not a game, that we should be prepared," Anzures said of the drill. When the quake came, she said the children and teachers rapidly filed out.

"It fell and everything inside was damaged," she said. Nobody was hurt.

■■■

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres says he is saddened by the loss of life and damage resulting from the earthquake in Mexico.

Guterres extends his condolences to the government and people of Mexico and wishes those injured a speedy recovery, according to a statement released by his spokesman.

The statement said the United Nations stands ready to assist Mexico following the quake, which has killed at least 139 people and devastated central Mexico.

■■■

Mexico's federal government has declared a state of disaster in Mexico City, freeing up emergency funds following a major earthquake that killed at least 139 people, including 36 in the capital.

President Enrique Pena Nieto said he had ordered all hospitals to open their doors to the injured after the magnitude 7.1 quake.

Dozens of buildings tumbled into mounds of rubble or were severely damaged in densely populated parts of Mexico City. Mayor Miguel Angel Mancera said buildings fell at 44 places in the capital alone as high-rises across the city swayed sickeningly.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the quake was centered near the Puebla state town of Raboso, about 76 miles (123 kilometers) southeast of Mexico City.

■■■

Nominations for the Latin Grammy Awards have been postponed because of the earthquake in Mexico and the aftermath of hurricanes Harvey and Irma.

Latin Recording Academy President Gabriel Abaroa Jr. said in a statement Tuesday that the delay comes "as an outgrowth of the terrible and tragic recent natural disasters affecting Mexico, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Houston, and Florida, the homes of many Hispanic communities."

Nomination announcements had been scheduled for Wednesday. No new date has been chosen yet.

Abaroa says the academy's "thoughts and prayers are with everyone affected by these catastrophic events and ones that may come."

The Latin Grammy Awards ceremony is still scheduled for Nov. 16 at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas, with a live telecast on Univision.

■■■

Rescuers are clawing through the rubble trying to rescue any children trapped when a school teaching 1st through 8th grades partly collapsed in southern Mexico City during a magnitude 7.1 earthquake.

Some relatives claimed they had received Whatsapp messages from two girls trapped inside the rubble but the claim could not be confirmed.

Officials say the death toll has reached 139 for the quake which the U.S. Geological Survey said was centered near the Puebla state town of Raboso, about 76 miles (123 kilometers) southeast of Mexico City.

■■■

The head of Mexico's National Civil Defense agency says the death toll from a major earthquake that rattled the center of the country has reached 139.

Luis Felipe Puente said 64 people had died in the state of Morelos, just south of Mexico City, though local officials reported only 54. In addition, 36 people died in Mexico City, 29 in Puebla state, nine in the State of Mexico and one in Guerrero.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the quake was centered near the Puebla state town of Raboso, about 76 miles (123 kilometers) southeast of Mexico City.

■■■

The government of Mexico's southern Oaxaca state reported one death from a major earthquake that devastated the country's center. The death raised the nationwide toll to 120.

Officials did not provide details of the death in Oaxaca, which is far from the quake's epicenter.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the magnitude 7.1 quake was centered near the Puebla state town of Raboso, about 76 miles (123 kilometers) southeast of Mexico City.

Focus

Rohingya Muslims are being wiped off Myanmar's map

AP

Rohingya Muslims, who crossed over recently from Myanmar into Bangladesh, stand in a queue to receive food being distributed near Balukhali refugee camp in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2017.

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)— For generations, Rohingya Muslims have called Myanmar home. Now, in what appears to be a systematic purge, the minority ethnic group is being wiped off the map.

After a series of attacks by Muslim militants last month, security forces and allied mobs retaliated by burning down thousands of Rohingya homes in the predominantly Buddhist nation.

More than 500,000 people—roughly half their population—have fled to neighboring Bangladesh in the past year, most of them in the last three weeks.

And they are still leaving, piling into wooden boats that take them to sprawling, monsoon-drenched refugee camps in Bangladesh.

In a speech Tuesday, Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi did not address a U.N. statement that the army has engaged in a "textbook case" of ethnic cleansing. Instead, she told concerned diplomats that while many villages were destroyed, more than half were still intact.

U.N. General-Secretary Antonio Guterres told the General Assembly on Tuesday that "I take note" of Suu Kyi's speech.

"This is the worst crisis in Rohingya history," said Chris Lewa, founder of the Arakan Project, which works to improve conditions for the ethnic minority, citing the monumental size and speed of the exodus. "Security forces have been burning villages one by one, in a very systematic way. And it's still ongoing."

Using a network of monitors, Lewa and her agency are meticulously documenting tracts of villages that have been partially or completely burned down in three townships in northern Rakhine state, where the vast majority of Myanmar's 1.1 million Rohingya once lived. It's a painstaking task because there are hundreds of them, and information is almost impossible to verify because the army has blocked access to the area. Satellite imagery released by Human Rights Watch on Tuesday shows massive swaths of scorched landscape and the near total destruction of 214 villages.

The Arakan Project said Tuesday that almost every tract of villages in Maungdaw township suffered some burning, and that almost all Rohingya had abandoned the area.

Sixteen of the 21 Rohingya villages in the northern part of Rathedaung township—in eight village tracts—were targeted. Three camps for Rohingya who were displaced in communal riots five years ago also were torched.

Buthidaung, to the east, so far has been largely spared. It is the only township where security operations appear limited to areas where the attacks by Rohingya militants, which triggered the ongoing crackdown, occurred. Separated from the other Rohingya townships by mountains, and with more Buddhists and more soldiers, Buthidaung has historically had fewer tensions.

In her speech, Suu Kyi noted that most Rohingya villages did not suffer violence, and said the government would look into "why are they not at each other's throats in these particular areas." Rohingya refugees angrily viewed that as the government deflecting blame for attacks by its own forces.

The Rohingya have had a long and troubled history in Myanmar, where many in the country's 60 million people look on them with disdain.

Though members of the ethnic minority first arrived generations ago, Rohingya were stripped of their citizenship in 1982, denying them almost all rights and rendering them stateless. They cannot travel freely, practice their religion, or work as teachers or doctors, and they have little access to medical care, food or education.

The U.N. has labeled the Rohingya one of the world's most persecuted religious minorities.

Still, if it weren't for their safety, many would rather live in Myanmar than be forced to another country that doesn't want them.

"Now we can't even buy plastic to make a shelter," said 32-year-old Kefayet Ullah of the camp in Bangladesh where he and his family are struggling to get from one day to the next.

In Rakhine, they had land for farming and a small shop. Now they have nothing.

"Our heart is crying for our home," he said, tears streaming down his face. "Even the father of my grandfather was born in Myanmar."

This is not the first time the Rohingya have fled en masse.

Hundreds of thousands left in 1978 and again in the early 1990s, fleeing military and government oppression, though policies were later put in place that allowed many to return. Communal violence in 2012, as the country was transitioning from a half-century of dictatorship to democracy, sent another 100,000 fleeing by boat. Some 120,000 remain trapped in camps under apartheid-like conditions outside Rakhine's capital, Sittwe.

But no exodus has been as massive and swift as the one taking place now.

The military crackdown came in retaliation for a series of coordinated attacks by Rohingya militants led by Attaullah Abu Ammar Jununi, who was born in Pakistan and raised in Saudi Arabia.

Last October, the militants struck police posts, killing several officers and triggering a brutal military response that sent 87,000 Rohingya fleeing. Then on Aug. 25, a day after a state-appointed commission of inquiry headed by former U.N. chief Kofi Annan released a report about the earlier bloodshed, the militants struck again.

They attacked more than 30 police and army posts, causing casualties.

It was the excuse security forces wanted. They hit back and hard. Together with Buddhist mobs, they burned down villages, killed, looted and raped.

That sent a staggering 421,000 fleeing as of Tuesday, according to U.N. estimates.

In Celebration of her New Life

Susana Quitugua Lizama

March 25, 1952 - September 10, 2017
also known as "CHUCHANG" "CHANNA"
Of Santa Rita, formerly from Saipan, was called home by our heavenly Father at the age of 65.

Mass of Intention is being offered 6:30 am, Monday thru Wednesday, no mass on Thursday, 6:30 am

In her new life, she now joins her **Parents:** Daniel Rios & Maria Toves Quitugua, **Son:** Alexander Q. Aldan, **Brother:** Antonio T. Quitugua, **Nephews:** Manuel Q. Tenorio, Darrell M. Quitugua, Daniel A. Quitugua, **Brother In-law:** Jun Echaluse; **Parents In-law:** Juan Q. & Magdalena A. Lizama, **Sister In-law:** Joanne A. Lizama; **Children's Paternal Grandfather:** Dr Manuel M. Aldan

Her love and memories will be missed and cherished forever in the hearts of her **Husband: Kelly Agulto Lizama Children & Spouses: Herman** & Gina Torwal Aldan (Peter, Oshen, Omrii); **Aloysius Jr.** & Zheng Aldan (En); **Suzette Aldan** & Frank Tudela Jr. (Chantyll Sablan & Treat Kaipat, Keilani & Truman Shiro, Alexander, Aprilyn, Stephanie); **Loria Aldan** & John Fathabyad (A'isha DeLeon Guerrero, Lorenzo DeLeon Guerrero); **Messellina Aldan** & Jason Phillips (Keaton Phillips) **Step-children & Spouses: Tametha** & Frank Tyquiengco (Jalanie, Frankel & Ricky Xayachack, Taylor, Tristiny); **Kelly Jr.** & Nami Lizama (Kelley Renae, Kaden, Kierin, Kamden Taitague); **Kaylon Lizama; Franklin Cruz Brothers/Sisters & Spouses: †Antonio** & Nora A. Quitugua; **Ana** & Benedicto Lizama; **Patricia** & †Jun Echaluse; **Agnes** & Antonio Cabrera; **Elizabeth** & Jose Terlaje; **Joaquin** & Bea S. Quitugua; **David Quitugua; Jovita** & Leo Cabrera; **Alicia** & Steven Stauffer; **Daniel Jr.** & Ruth DLG. Quitugua; **Agida Quitugua; Ramona** & Joseph Bowie; **Barbara** & David Sablan; **Adelina Quitugua, Brothers/Sisters In-law: Johnny** & Rosario Lizama, John & **Doris** Anderson; **Lilian** & Robert Grant **†Joanne** Lizama; **Patrick Lizama; Special Friends:** Mary Park, Alice Santos, Mario Santos, Milagro Santos, Patty Westfall, Keiko Yamagata

Numerous great grandchildren, aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

Last respects will be on Friday, September 22, 2017 from 8:00 am to 11:30 am at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Santa Rita. **Mass** for a Christian Burial will be at 12:00 pm. **Interment** will follow at Guam Veterans Cemetery in Piti, where we will bid her farewell and peaceful rest.

ADA'S Mortuary/Crematorium

Life & Style

'Stronger' spawns a friendship for Gyllenhaal and Bauman

In this Sept. 10, 2017 photo, Jake Gyllenhaal, left, poses for portrait with Boston Marathon bombing survivor Jeff Bauman during the Toronto International Film Festival in Toronto. AP

TORONTO (AP)—As the cast and makers of "Stronger" collectively rose to take a bow after the film's Toronto International Film Festival premiere, Jake Gyllenhaal realized that Jeff Bauman, whom he plays in the film and who wears prosthetic legs, was still sitting, overwhelmed with emotion.

"Jake was like, 'Get up!'" Bauman said. "And I stood up."

"As soon as he got up, everyone else stood up," Gyllenhaal said. "I realized: This movie just showed them everything he went through just for that moment. I've never had an experience like that making a movie."

"Stronger," directed by David Gordon Green, is the kind of movie that holds as much drama off the screen as on it. The movie chronicles Bauman's struggles after a bomb explosion tore through his legs while he was waiting by the finish line of the 2013 Boston Marathon. He was there to greet his on-again, off-again girlfriend, Erin Hurley, who had previously chided him for never "showing up."

"Stronger," based on Bauman's 2014 memoir, is an undoubtedly inspiring story, but maybe not in the way you'd expect. Honest, painful and funny, it avoids the familiar Hollywood beats for a more truthful tale of personal growth. "The big moments of our lives don't happen in a close-up," says Gyllenhaal.

"Stronger" captures Bauman, now 31, recalibrating his life after the tragedy, still struggling with relationship and drinking problems that predated the bombing and chafing at the role cast upon him as a heroic symbol of "Boston Strong." Bauman instead saw himself merely, he says, as: "Just a dude with no legs."

Bauman's modesty remains, but he's also come to terms with being someone who gives hope to others, who can now connect with a wide world of amputees, war veterans and other sufferers trying to get by. One memorable scene, taken from a real experience, shows Bauman mobbed at Fenway and listening to story after story.

"There's so much love coming at Jeff," says Gyllenhaal. "People line up—they really do—to talk to him. They're like: 'This thing happened to me,' 'That thing happened to me.' We are not alone in all that, and that's what his story says."

Meeting for an interview at a Toronto hotel shortly after the film's festival premiere, the close bond between Gyllenhaal and Bauman was plainly evident. In the two and a half years since they began working on the movie together, they've gotten to know each other well through Gyllenhaal's regular trips up to Boston to spend time with Bauman and study how he moves physically. Bauman came to New York to see Gyllenhaal on Broadway. They threw out the first pitch at Fenway Park together.

"Since we first met, I think he's a totally different person now," Gyllenhaal says. "Particularly in the past year, since getting sober. I think he's been much more open. When we first met, trying to learn about him and figure out what was going on was a little harder. And now I feel like I know him better than even when I played the role."

"Bromance" is a term that has often been applied to their relationship, but Gyllenhaal, 36, is more like an encouraging older brother. He's helped Bauman through hard times (he and Hurley, previously married and with a three-year-old daughter, Nora, have separated) and gamely accepts Bauman's playful chiding—like his questioning the depth of the New York-based Gyllenhaal's Red Sox fandom.

Jake: I am a Sox fan. I just wear a Yankees hat, but I am a Sox fan.

Jeff: He doesn't wear a Yankees hat around me.

Jake: That's true.

Jeff (derisively): He's a Warriors fan.

Jake: Easy.

They've been inseparable while strolling down red carpets and promoting "Stronger." ''I'm like his shadow," said Gyllenhaal. Last week, they showed the film to patients and staff at the Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital, where Bauman worked on his recovery and where they filmed scenes for the movie. In Toronto, Bauman was pleased to see a photo caption misidentifying him as his fiction-film doppelganger. He plans to frame it and give it to Jake.

But in the time they've been making "Stronger" (Gyllenhaal is also a producer), both say Bauman has dramatically grown. He's now 15 months sober and studying engineering in college. Working at Costco at the time of the bombing, Bauman now hopes to work for a prosthetics company. He also moved out of his mother's apartment and into his own place. Gyllenhaal considers it the film's biggest accomplishment.

O'Reilly says his ouster was hit job and business decision

NEW YORK (AP)—Bill O'Reilly said Tuesday that his firing from Fox News Channel in April was a "political hit job" and that his network's parent company made a business decision to get rid of him.

The deposed king of cable television news had a contentious interview with Matt Lauer on NBC's "Today" show, where he said his conscience was clear about how he dealt with women in the working world.

O'Reilly was dismissed by 21st Century Fox following a review prompted by a report in The New York Times that five women had been paid a total of $13 million to keep quiet about disturbing encounters with the Fox host.

At the time, the network was nine months past removing its founding CEO, Roger Ailes, following harassment charges. The combative O'Reilly had spent years as the most-watched figure in cable TV news.

O'Reilly

"This was a hit job, a political and financial hit job engineered by ...," O'Reilly said.

Lauer interrupted him. "This was a vast left wing conspiracy?" said Lauer, who was the interviewer two decades ago when then-first lady Hillary Clinton talked about a "vast right wing conspiracy" targeting her husband.

"It wasn't vast," O'Reilly said. "Don't be sarcastic. Don't be sarcastic."

Following the Times report, advertisers began fleeing from O'Reilly's show, encouraged by liberal media watchdogs that had long had O'Reilly in their sights. O'Reilly said that unsettled his bosses at Fox.

Given his status at the network, Lauer asked whether it seemed safe to assume that company officials had been given some information or evidence that made it impossible for O'Reilly to stay.

"That's a false assumption," O'Reilly said. "There were a lot of other business things in play at that time, and still today, that 21st Century was involved in, and that was a business decision that they made."

That was an apparent reference to the Rupert Murdoch-owned company's $15 billion bid to take over Britain's Sky Broadcasting, which is still being reviewed by British authorities, who are looking at Fox's harassment issues, among other issues.

"They made a business decision that they could possibly prosper more without me," O'Reilly said.

A spokesman for 21st Century Fox declined comment Tuesday on O'Reilly's interview.

O'Reilly didn't discuss individual accusations, but urged viewers to read a story on the conservative website Newsmax that said one of his accusers had been arrested by Detroit police in 2015 and charged with making a false report about a boyfriend threatening her with a gun.

He was asked by Lauer whether he had suffered any self-inflicted wounds.

"Nobody's a perfect person," O'Reilly said. "But I can go to sleep at night very well, knowing that I never mistreated anyone on my watch in 42 years."

Laura Keiter, spokeswoman for Media Matters for America, one of the groups that had advocated an O'Reilly advertiser boycott, said "NBC should not have hosted O'Reilly in the first place," particularly since he had earlier said he would bring up the article about one of his accusers.

While Lauer did spend a substantial amount of time questioning O'Reilly about the harassment reports, Keiter said "the questions lacked sharpness and follow-through."

O'Reilly appeared on the morning show to promote a book, "Killing England," one of a series he has written with Martin Dugard. The series, which includes the million-sellers "Killing Lincoln" and "Killing Kennedy," has made O'Reilly one of the country's best-selling nonfiction authors. But this is the first one where he hasn't had the platform of his Fox show to promote it. As of early Tuesday afternoon, "Killing England" ranked No. 4 on Amazon.com.

About three-quarters of Lauer's interview addressed the circumstances around O'Reilly's firing before he was asked about the book.

Trump mocks Emmy ceremony for low ratings

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump is mocking Sunday's Emmy Awards ceremony—where he himself was frequently mocked by host Stephen Colbert, presenters and prize-winners.

Trump tweets, "I was saddened to see how bad the ratings were on the Emmys last night—the worst ever."

The president's Tuesday night tweet is a little off: The show was on Sunday, not Monday, and the ratings didn't quite hit bottom, though they were close. The Nielsen company estimated that 11.4 million people watched, slightly more than last year's lowest ever audience of 11.3 million.

Trump adds, "Smartest people of them all are the 'DEPLORABLES.'" That's a reference to a remark Hillary Clinton made during last year's presidential campaign, when she said half of Trump supporters belong in a "basket of deplorables."

Clinton mocks 'manspreading' Putin

NEW YORK (AP)—When Hillary Clinton took the guest's seat on "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert," she was in a mood to put Russian President Vladimir Putin on the psychiatrist's couch.

Clinton said Tuesday night that Putin interfered in the presidential election in part because of her work as secretary of state, which brought the two into conflict on various occasions. That, she said, evolved into a grudge on his part.

She said the fact she's a woman "does seem to get him agitated." And she mocked Putin for "manspreading" at one meeting. That's an aggressive posture where a man sits with legs splayed.

And she says Putin is "tied up with his anger and disappointment" with the Soviet Union's collapse.

Meantime Clinton called President Donald Trump's U.N. speech "very dark, dangerous."

Protesting Venezuelan violinist may seek political asylum in US

NEW YORK (AP)—A violinist who became the young face of anti-government protests in Venezuela may soon seek political asylum in the United States.

Wuilly Arteaga became well-known after playing somber renditions of Venezuela's national anthem while standing amid clouds of tear gas. During one clash with security forces earlier this year, he and his violin were dragged to the ground and he was later thrown in jail, where he said he was beaten.

Now free, he performed Tuesday at Lincoln Center in New York at an event to draw attention to human rights abuses in Venezuela.

The 23-year-old said his priority is to find work in the U.S. rather than request asylum. But he said he doesn't feel safe returning home because of death threats he*s received on social media and by phone following his outspoken criticism of President Nicolas Maduro.

"I'll probably seek asylum but it's not a decision I've made yet," Arteaga told The Associated Press at the concert. "I'm nervous and worried. I don't know what's going to happen with my life."

Dressed in a T-shirt and hat in the red, yellow and blue colors of the Venezuelan flag, Arteaga performed somber renditions of the classic folk standards that became anthems of the four-month protest movement. Projected on a screen behind him were scenes from the protests in which more than 120 people died and hundreds more were injured or jailed. Some of the images showed Arteaga, his face bloodied.

"I play the violin for peace, for freedom," Arteaga told the Lincoln Center crowd.

Arteaga first picked up the violin growing up in the city of Valencia and was a member of Venezuela's world-famous El Sistema network of youth orchestras and music schools. He dropped out after two years but continued studying on his own. About four years ago he moved to Caracas, busking for his meals by playing on the streets and outside stores.

He arrived in New York on Sunday with little means to support himself. He's living now at a hotel paid for by the sponsors of Tuesday's event but says he'll soon have to start looking for work.

Leonardo DiCaprio foundation awards $20M in eco-grants

NEW YORK (AP)—Leonardo DiCaprio announced Tuesday that his eco-focused foundation has given more than $20 million this year in fresh grants to more than 100 organizations around the world.

AP

In this Nov. 6, 2016 file photo, Leonardo DiCaprio accepts the Hollywood documentary award for «Before the Flood» at the 20th annual Hollywood Film Awards in Beverly Hills, Calif.

From lion recovery and mangrove restoration to the defense of indigenous rights and better access to affordable solar energy, the actor announced the grants ahead of his appearance at a climate change conference at Yale University. He planned to use the appearance to urge more immediate steps to reduce the world's reliance on fossil fuels in favor of renewable energy sources.

"Our challenge is to find new ways to power our lives, employ millions of people and turn every individual into an advocate for clean air and drinkable water," DiCaprio said in a statement. "We must demand that politicians accept climate science and make bold commitments before it is too late."

The money increases the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation's giving to $80 million since 1998, the organization said in a statement.

Among nearly $3.6 million in new climate grants, for instance, is support of community organizations in the United States fighting for 100 percent renewable energy, money for mitigating climate change through mangrove re-planting in Somalia and a project that backs legal action holding major corporations in the fossil fuel industry liable for the effects of pollution.

The foundation also granted about $6.4 million for wildlife and land conservation projects. That work includes lion and elephant restoration and protection, conservation research in the Brazilian Amazon and a partnership with the local Maasai community in Kenya to conserve critical wildlife and wilderness there.

California Waterkeepers, a group that helps protect the state's coastal waters, and Ocean 5, which establishes marine reserves and combats illegal fishing in all five oceans around the globe, are among other recipients.

Image of rapper Drake imposed into park renovation rendering

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York City Parks Department livened up a rendering of a planned park renovation by inserting an image of the Grammy-winning rapper Drake into the background, alongside an image of rapper Akon laughing in the foreground.

The image of Drake is taken from the television show "Degrassi: The Next Generation" where the rapper played a student who used a wheelchair after being shot. The New York Post reports the rendering featuring Drake appears on page 52 of a 59-page document outlining the renovation plan for Brooklyn's Fort Greene Park released Tuesday.

Parks spokesman Sam Biederman referenced lyrics from Drake's song "Started From the Bottom" when asked about the rendering. He says they "started at the bottom of Fort Greene Park's signature hill, now we're here with the final design."

Woman's co-workers ridicule her extreme aversion to blood

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 30-year-old female who has extreme hemophobia. I cannot see blood or hear people talk about anything blood-related. I pass out when my blood is drawn, and I cannot have a finger-prick blood test either. It's even difficult for me to write this message.

I work in an office and I have told my co-workers about my problem and asked them to please avoid the topic when I'm present. They think my request is unreasonable and that I'm just being silly. When someone brings up the subject, I quickly leave the room, sit down out of earshot and put my head between my legs. Then they laugh at me. When I mentioned this problem to my supervisor, he said he doesn't feel there is anything he can do about it because it's not a subject that is against company policy or taboo.

I'm just looking for some compassion and understanding from my co-workers. I don't want to have to find another job, but I can't keep running for cover every day, and I don't want to pass out and injure myself. How can I make them see that this is a real medical problem and I'm not just looking for attention?

PASSING OUT IN MISSOURI

DEAR PASSING OUT: Unless you work in a doctor's office or a blood bank, I fail to see why the subject of blood would come up on a regular basis. Because your co-workers know how it affects you, I can only assume that they are either extremely thoughtless and insensitive, or do it intentionally to upset you or make you sick.

Raise the subject again with your supervisor. Explain that you don't want to look for another job and what they're doing is creating the opposite of a friendly work environment. If he still won't intervene, consider discussing your problem with a mental health professional who specializes in phobias, because there may be a therapy that can help to lessen or even eliminate your condition.

DEAR ABBY: I am wondering about the use of the term "fiancee." Urban Dictionary says it is now considered a "White Trash culture" term for a long-term girlfriend. I'm beginning to hear it used more and more often by people I certainly would not think of as white trash. Is there another way to refer to a significant other when no wedding is planned or a date set? Do other cultures or languages have a word for this?

WONDERING ABOUT WORDS

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

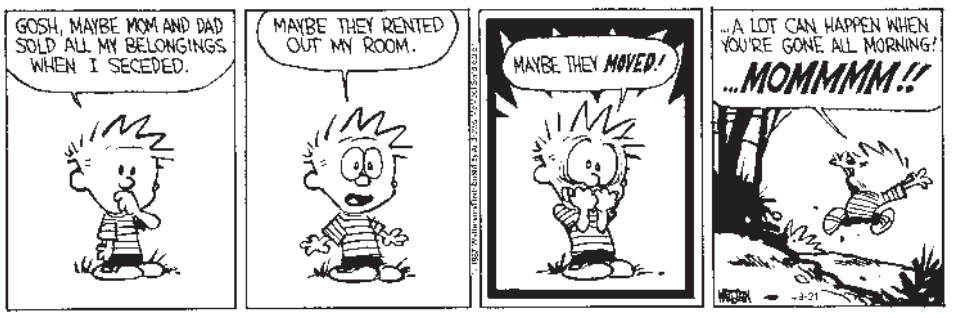
DEAR WONDERING: "Fiancee" is a word of French origin that is defined as "a woman engaged to be married." When couples cohabitate with no plan to marry, the term they often use when referring to their significant other is "partner." Of course, our culture is more liberal than some others that label those who choose to live this way as "fornicators." While other cultures may have terms for it, I am unfamiliar with them.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


GOSH, MAYBE MOM AND DAD SOLD ALL MY BELONGINGS WHEN I SECEDED.
MAYBE THEY RENTED OUT MY ROOM.
MAYBE THEY MOVED!
...A LOT CAN HAPPEN WHEN YOU'RE GONE ALL MORNING!
...MOMMMM!!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

WHY CAN'T YOU GET JANICE TO BABYSIT US? PLEEEEEASE??
OKAY, OKAY. I'LL SEE IF SHE'S AVAILABLE.
I JUST DIDN'T KNOW YOU DISLIKED AMY SO MUCH. WHAT'D SHE DO?
THERE WERE RULES! AND BEDTIMES! AND FORBIDDEN JUNK FOOD! SHUDDER.
IT'S LESS EFFECTIVE WHEN YOU ACTUALLY SAY "SHUDDER."
RING
9-21

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

STRIKE THREE!
THERE GOES THE WHOLE SEASON AND NOT A SINGLE HIT.
YOU SHOULD RETURN YOUR BAT FOR A REFUND SINCE IT'S STILL LIKE NEW.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Task
4 Corrals
8 Faucet problem
12 Glamorous Gardner
13 Sandwich treat
14 Ancient letter
15 Candle scent
17 Regarding
18 Granola grain
19 Castle's jail cell
21 Outlaw
24 Buddhist sect
25 Chopper
26 Corn core
28 Aquarium favorite
32 "Little Women" sister
34 Cloister resident
36 Lacking slack
37 Commercial cow
39 Medico
41 CEO's deg.
42 Links org.
44 Bent out of shape
46 Public image
50 Extinct bird
51 "Who —?"
52 Wisconsin city
56 Sidewalk eatery
57 Mideast airline
58 Foreman foe
59 Litigant
60 Oodles
61 "Uh-huh"

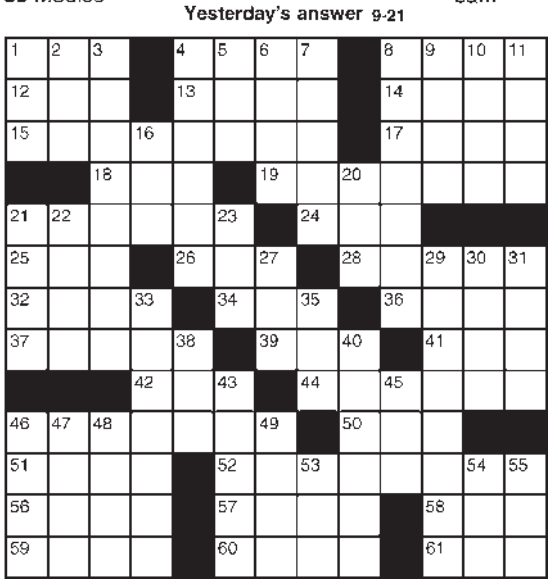
DOWN

1 Poke
2 Eggs
3 Rifle attachments
4 Written in verse
5 Goof up
6 Dweeb
7 Soviet spacecraft
8 Jack Webb TV show
9 Stratagem
10 Fascinated by
11 Drudge
16 Abysmal
20 Profit
21 Innocent one
22 Skater's leap
23 Heavy weight
27 Future flower
29 Home to the Buccaneers
30 Hayseed
31 Slightly
33 With-it sort
35 At once
38 Swelled head
40 Caravan mammals
43 Gabriel, for one
45 Director Howard
46 Snapshots
47 Birthright barterer
48 Teeming
49 Woody's son
53 "Dig in!"
54 Hearty brew
55 Shrill bark

Solution time: 24 mins.

M	U	M		S	I	L	T		D	A	R	T
A	H	A		C	R	F	W		F	C	H	C
R	O	Y		R	A	C	I	O	S	H	O	W
C	H	I	L	I			G	O	P			
			A	P	B	S		F	O	R	T	S
S	H	O	W	I	I	M	E		I	O	O	L
_	I	V		S	E	E	R	S		I	H	A
A	K	I	N		L	A	T	E	S	H	O	W
M	E	D	I	A		R	E	N	O			
			T	L	C			D	W	E	L	L
S	H	O	W	T	U	N	E	S		S	E	A
O	M	N	I		S	I	R	I		P	O	D
B	O	A	T		S	P	A	N		N	N	F

Yesterday's answer 9-21



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jason Derulo, 28; Luke Wilson, 46; Faith Hill, 50; Bill Murray, 67.

Happy Birthday: You can dream big, but when it comes to actually putting your ideas into play, it is best to be cautious and moderate. Building a solid foundation for your future plans will encourage greater stability and give you more maneuverability as your ideas develop. Refuse to let personal or emotional issues cloud your vision or push you in the wrong direction. Your numbers are 7, 12, 22, 25, 33, 37, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Emotions will have to be grounded if you want to avoid getting into a situation that can affect your reputation or status. Look for opportunities that arise due to the hard work and dedication you put into your pursuits. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Business or personal trips will be enlightening. The information you gather and the people you encounter along the way will encourage you to make changes to the way you move forward. Physical changes will make you feel good. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Work with people you look up to and who have something to offer you in return. Getting ahead will be based on how well you recognize an opportunity when it comes along and how you take advantage of what's offered. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Share your thoughts, but be willing to accept the response you get in return. Everyone is entitled to an opinion, and accepting and respecting others' points of view will give you greater freedom to think and do as you please. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Greater involvement in activities that include relatives or friends will lead to projects that you can work on as a team. Suggestions someone offers will change the way you choose to move forward. Live in the moment. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Stand your ground if someone tries to talk you into something expensive or unnecessary. The past will come back to haunt you if you are easily swayed or agree to something just because you want to fit in. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Choose your words wisely when dealing with partners or those who can make a difference to the outcome of something you want to pursue. Arguing will not help you get your way, but friendly persuasion or offering an incentive will. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Be cautious when dealing with a fast talker. Get the lowdown before you agree to be involved in something you know little about. Someone's charm will not be enough to bank your life savings on. Do your own thing. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Choose to make self-improvements. What you do to satisfy your dreams, hopes and aspirations will make a difference to the way others treat you. Do your homework before you put your plans into motion. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Back away from anything that appears to be overly expensive or impractical. Look for the best way to spend your time and your money. If someone is persistent, make your position clear. Play it safe and stay focused on your plans. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Good fortune is within reach. Look at the opportunities that interest you and take a leap of faith. Trust in your ability to incorporate something you enjoy doing into your daily routine. Live healthy and work hard. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Emotional issues will escalate rapidly if you jump to conclusions prematurely or make rash decisions that affect the ones you love. Take a step back and consider the consequences of your actions before you take on a new challenge. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are impulsive, persistent and dogmatic. You are proactive and confident.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	6			5			2	
7					3	5		8
	9							
	4		3		2			
8				6				5
			4		5		9	
							1	
4		1	2					3
	2			9			7	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/21

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

2	5	9	7	6	1	3	8	4
7	3	4	8	5	9	2	6	1
1	8	6	2	3	4	7	9	5
5	1	8	6	9	2	4	3	7
4	6	7	5	8	3	9	1	2
9	2	3	4	1	7	8	5	6
6	9	2	1	7	8	5	4	3
3	4	5	9	2	6	1	7	8
8	7	1	3	4	5	6	2	9

Difficulty level ★★★ 9/20

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

JUST ADD SAUCE Solution: 4 letters

C	C	M	C	B	H	C	A	E	P	A	S	T	A	A
H	H	O	O	O	R	S	K	C	I	H	T	T	H	E
R	O	I	V	R	U	E	I	F	A	T	S	C	Y	C
E	R	L	M	E	N	L	A	F	E	A	A	V	R	U
M	E	I	L	I	R	A	I	D	L	H	O	S	E	A
U	T	S	W	A	C	S	Y	S	S	H	C	Y	T	S
L	S	A	G	A	N	H	A	G	C	Y	G	R	T	Y
S	B	B	I	O	O	D	U	N	A	I	R	R	U	O
I	O	O	I	I	I	A	A	R	R	M	E	U	B	S
F	L	N	S	P	C	L	A	I	R	P	A	C	P	Ⓜ
I	O	I	P	A	F	N	P	A	S	I	A	N	Ⓘ	B
E	N	I	M	R	I	I	T	T	A	E	M	Ⓝ	G	R
D	N	O	E	R	R	R	E	Z	E	S	Ⓣ	Y	S	O
G	L	D	A	I	A	A	G	N	I	K	S	I	H	W
E	O	M	P	T	K	U	E	D	N	A	M	R	O	N

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Aioli, Alfredo, Anchovy, Basil, Breads, Brown, Butter, Chef, Chimichurri, Coulis, Cover, Curry, Dipping, Emulsified, Fish, Garlic, Guacamole, Hoisin, Hollandaise, Last, Lobster, Mango, Marinara, Meat, Mint, Mornay, Normande, Onions, Pans, Pasta, Peach, Piri Piri, Rice, Salsa, Shacha, Soy Sauce, Steak, Syrup, Tartar, Tasty, Thick, Whisking, Wine, Zesty

Yesterday's Answer: Diesel

To purchase the **WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1 or #2**, order online at: www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

General Mechanic (1) - Minimium of 5 years professional experience as general mechanic, repairs and maintains physical structures of the facility, repairs of vehicles, office machines and equipments, plumbing, electrical, carpentry, air condition, and all other equipments of the company. Rate $6.55 to $7.50/hr.

Interested applicants can mail their resume at P.O. Box 7788 SVRB, Saipan MP 96950 or may email to saipan@americopters.com.
No phone calls please.

Misamis Construction
Now Hiring

- (02) Construction Supervisors
- (20) Carpenters
- (20) Masons
- (10) Painters
- (10) Electricians
- (10) Steel Workers-Welders
- (10) Plumbers
- (10) Building Maintenance Repairers
- (05) Commercial Cleaners
- (02) Procurement Specialists
- (05) Landscapers

Local applicants are encouraged to apply.
Please call 235-5238 or
visit our office in Chalan Kanoa
Email: misamisconstruction@yahoo.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Strategic Gaming Solution, Inc. has immediate opening for

Cook – Full Time (1)

Requirement:
High school graduate, GED or equivalent plus two (2) year work experience as a cook. Preferably one with experience in Western, Japanese, Korean and Chinese cuisines. Must be energetic with an excellent track record in hospitality and who thrives in a fast pace service environment. Able to multi-task and flexible to work days, evenings, weekends and holidays. Final interview may include a skill test. This position requires examination and clearance for Food Handlers Certificate before hire. Food Handlers Certificate must be valid at all time during employment.

Salary Range - $8.00 to $9.00

Deadline for submission: October 5, 2017.
Interested applicants may pick up an application at our HR Office located within Kanoa Resort, Susupe Beach Road from Monday to Friday between the hour of 10:30AM to 5:30PM. Applications must be supported with resume, diploma or certificate and a valid photo I.D.
Applicant must be eligible to work in the U.S.

MICRONESIA RENEWABLE ENERGY INC. | CNMI

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Receptionist/Administrator Assistant

The Receptionist/Administrative Assistance is responsible for a diverse range of activities to regulate and enhance the daily operations of our organization located in **Saipan**. These includes:

- Managing reception; incoming telephone calls, visitors, couriers, staff whereabouts
- Controlling correspondence, incoming and outgoing mail, electronic data
- Assist with managing office supply requisitions
- Managing project files, design and maintain project filing systems
- Managing quality, record tracking, document control, process compliance
- Maintain office equipment
- Must be computer proficient
- Light accounting experience a plus
- Assisting our Contracts Administrator with various tasks
- Assisting our Customer Support Care Specialist with various Tasks

We are looking for a detailed orientated individual with a great work ethic to become a part of our growing team in our Saipan Office. Hours are 8 AM to 5 PM Monday thru Friday. This is a great opportunity with a growing company with upside and growth potential
Only serious applicants apply. Please submit your resume to tvoacolo@micronesiarenewableenergy.com

MICRONESIA RENEWABLE ENERGY INC. | CNMI

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

SOLAR ENERGY SALES SPECIALIST

BECOME PART OF THIS NEW AND EXCITING INDUSTRY ON SAIPAN HELP SAVE THE PLANET WHILE MAKING A LOT OF MONEY!!!

Looking for a career in a thriving industry? The solar industry is booming and we are growing quickly within it. We are looking for people who want to grow with the company and thrive in a competitive environment. If you have a proven track record for success, we want you on our team.

We have immediate openings for career minded individuals who offer skills and abilities in direct sales.

Successful candidates will inform and educate homeowners on the benefits of solar energy

Responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Work with team to generate, respond to and follow up with prospective customers
- Educate customers about the benefits of going solar
- Analyze and anticipate a prospective customer's solar knowledge and needs
- Create and present various proposals to potential customers

JOB REQUIREMENTS

- Exceptional interpersonal skills including verbal communication and listening skills
- Must demonstrate professionalism when interacting with customers, clients and team members
- Must have "track record" for success as demonstrated by previous work experience
- Strong mathematical skills including critical thinking and problem solving
- Leadership experience preferred (school, organizational, and sports leadership also accepted)
- Inside/Outside sales experience preferred
- Proficient in Microsoft Office (Word/Excel)
- Capable to work individually and in a team environment

Additional Skills Required...

- Ambitious
- Goal Oriented
- Results Driven
- Team Oriented
- Self Accountable
- Adaptable

Benefits / Compensation:

- Motivated to earn $50,000.00+ per year

Very attractive base pay plus commissions

Fuel and cell phone reimbursement

- No cap on commissions
- Free Training provided by the best in the industry
- Medical, Dental, Benefits

$1,000.00 Signing bonus after your 90 day probational period

Please email your resume/work experience to Jvoacolo@micronesiarenewableenergy.com

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN

is inviting qualified, U.S. workers to apply for the following position:

FINANCIAL CONTROLLER

Applicants must have a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting or any related major/field (may be foreign equivalency); Five (5) years of experience as an Accountant / Auditor; U.S. CPA required; Supervises Financial and Accounting department of resort hotel located on Beach Road, Saipan, CNMI. Reviews and approves the annual budget, projections and procurement. Sets or revises organizational policy when necessary. Send resume to Inter-Pacific Resorts (Saipan) Corp., P. O. Box 502370 Saipan, MP 96950.

Applications must be received by 5:00pm on Friday, October 13, 2017.
PIC applications are available at the PIC Security Desk by the Loading Dock/Employee Entrance.
Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered.
PIC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

WHATZIT Solution: More in it than meets the eye

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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Find today's solution in classified section

Sabathia, Gardner help Yankees top Twins

NEW YORK (AP) — CC Sabathia recovered from a shaky start to pitch six innings, Brett Gardner had a pair of tying hits and the New York Yankees beat the Minnesota Twins 5-2 on Tuesday night to ensure their sixth straight series win.

With their ninth victory in 11 games, the Yankees remained three games behind AL East-leading Boston and opened six-game lead over the Twins for the top AL wild card. At 84-67, the Yankees are 17 games over .500 for the first time since September 2015.

Minnesota, which started the night 1 1/2 games ahead of the Los Angeles Angels for the second AL wild card, has lost four of five.

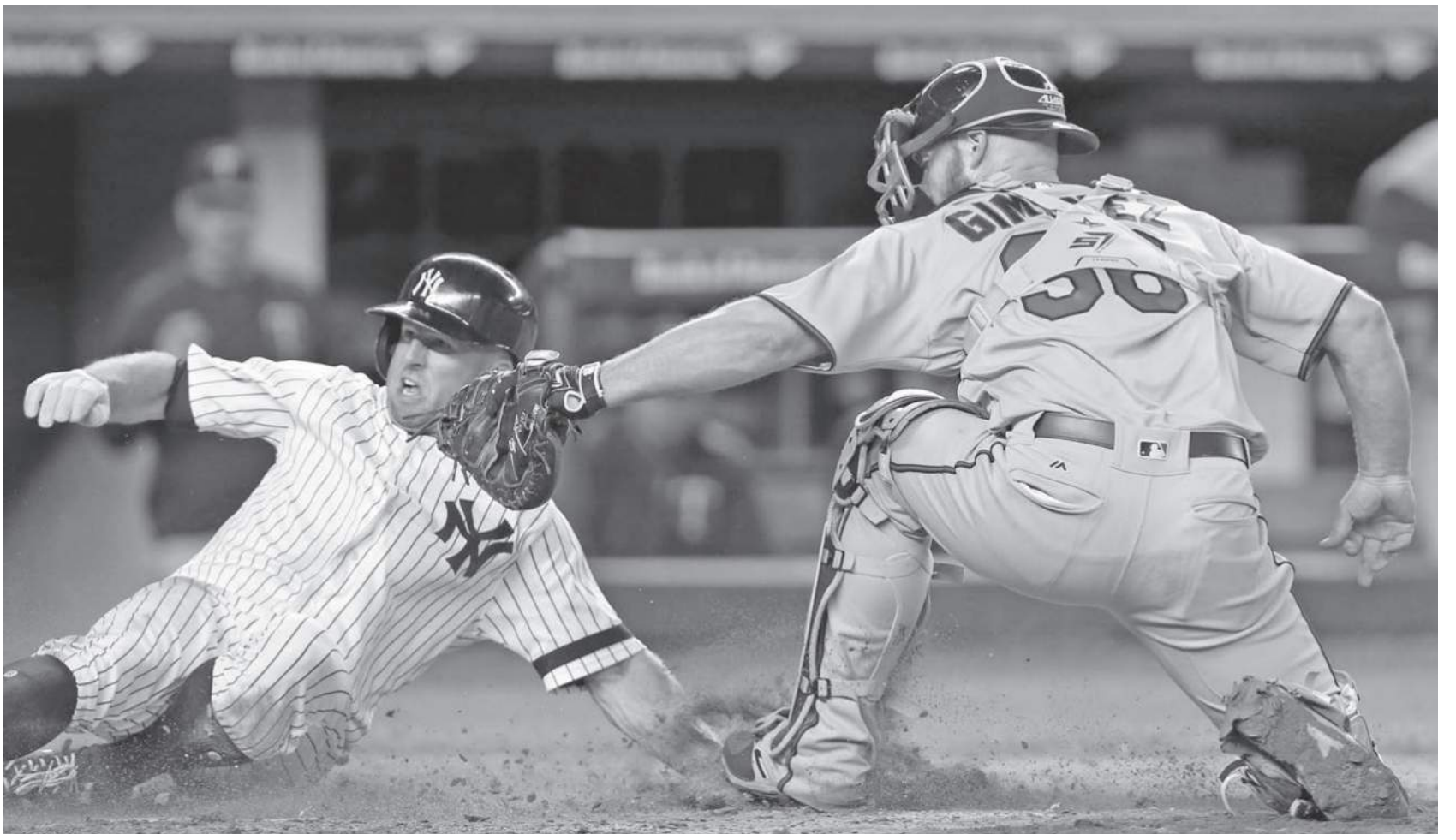
Pitching on seven days' rest in a game that started 65 minutes late because of a downpour, Sabathia (12-5) allowed Minnesota to load the bases in his first four pitches. He fell behind 1-0 and 2-1 but hung on and allowed six hits with one walk and five strikeouts. He retired 10 in a row during one stretch.

Sabathia stranded the bases loaded in the sixth when Gardner caught Eddie Rosario's wind-assisted fly just in front of the left-field wall.

Sabathia fanned Chris Gimenez in the second for his 2,833th strikeout, passing Mickey Lolich for sole possession of 18th overall and third among left-handers behind Randy Johnson and Steve Carlton.

Aroldis Chapman worked a scoreless ninth for his 20th save in 24 chances.

First baseman Joe Mauer booted Greg Bird's hard-hit, bases-loaded grounder for a run-scoring error in the fifth that made it 4-2. Starlin Castro, who had three hits, added an RBI single in the sixth.



AP

New York Yankees left fielder Brett Gardner (11) reacts after he was tagged out at the plate by Minnesota Twins catcher Chris Gimenez (38) during the seventh inning of a baseball game in New York, Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2017. The play came after the Yankees' Aaron Judge hit into a fielder's choice.

Cubs 2, Rays 1

In St. Petersburg, Mike Montgomery took a no-hit bid into the sixth inning, Kyle Schwarber hit his 28th home run and the Chicago Cubs extended their winning streak to a season-high seven games by beating the Tampa Bay Rays 2-1 on Tuesday night in manager Joe Maddon's return to Tropicana Field.

Maddon managed Tampa Bay from 2006-14, then left for Chicago and last year led the Cubs to their first World Series title since 1908. Chicago holds a 3+-game lead over second-place Milwaukee in the NL Central.

Red Sox 1, Orioles 0, 11 innings

In Baltimore, Jackie Bradley Jr. scored the game's lone run on a wild pitch by Brad Brach in the 11th inning, helping the Red Sox improve to 15-3 in extra-inning games.

Boston has won 10 of 13 to move a season-high 23 games over .500 (87-64) and draw closer to clinching a postseason berth. The Red Sox stayed three games ahead of the second-place Yankees in the AL East.

Phillies 6, Dodgers 2

In Philadelphia, Rhys Hoskins had four RBI for Philadelphia, including a tiebreaking three-run double off Pedro Baez in seventh inning.

Los Angeles' magic number to clinch its fifth straight division title is two. The Dodgers have lost three consecutive games and 19 of 24.

Hoskins saw 30 pitches in going 2 for 3 with a walk. He knocked out Yu Darvish with a sixth-inning RBI single that cut Philadelphia's deficit to 2-1, and then doubled to the left-center gap on the 10th pitch of his at-bat against Baez (3-6) for a 5-2 lead.

Brewers 1, Pirates 0

In Pittsburgh, Chase Anderson struck out eight in six innings, Domingo Santana homered and the Brewers shut out the Pirates for the second straight day.

The Brewers won for the ninth time in 11 games, keeping pace in the NL Central and wild-card races. They won for the fourth time in the past seven days against reeling Pittsburgh, which has lost a season-high seven consecutive games and 12 of 13.

Marlins 5, Mets 4, 10 innings

In Miami, J.T. Realmuto homered in the 10th inning and Miami beat New York after rallying for three runs in the ninth against former teammate A.J. Ramos.

With one out, Realmuto connected off Paul Sewald (0-6) for his 17th homer.

Miami trailed 4-1 in the ninth before coming back against Ramos, who faced the Marlins for the first time since they traded him to New York on July 28. Justin Bour led off with his 22nd homer, and first since a six-week stint on the disabled list.

Cardinals 8, Reds 7, 10 innings

In Cincinnati, Dexter Fowler hit a tying homer in the eighth inning and a go-ahead double in the 10th to help St. Louis get past Cincinnati.

Yadier Molina and Paul DeJong also connected for the Cardinals, who were swept by NL Central-leading Chicago last weekend and had dropped four of five overall. Juan Nicasio (4-5) pitched 1 1/3 innings for the win, and Tyler Lyons got two outs for his third save.

Nationals 4, Braves 2

In Atlanta, Max Scherzer allowed five hits in seven innings, and Washington tuned up for the playoffs with a victory over Atlanta.

Scherzer (15-6) bounced back from his worst start of the season, also against the Braves last week, when he walked six and was roughed up for seven runs in an 8-2 loss.

This time, Scherzer struck out seven and walked only one while throwing 83 of 112 pitches for strikes.

Blue Jays 5, Royals 2

In Toronto, Marcus Stroman pitched seven innings to win for the first time in six starts and Darwin Barney hit a two-run homer, helping the Blue Jays to the victory.

Alex Gordon's solo drive for Kansas City in the eighth was the majors' 5,694th homer of the season, breaking the record set in 2000 at the height of the Steroids Era. There were 5,610 homers last year, an average of 2.31 per game, and this year's average of 2.53 entering Tuesday's action projects to 6,139.

Astros 3, White Sox 1

In Houston, Jose Altuve homered, Alex Bregman hit an RBI double and AL West champion Houston extended its winning streak to five games with a victory over Chicago.

Collin McHugh (3-2) allowed one run and five hits with five strikeouts in five innings for the Astros. It was the right-hander's first outing since detaching a fingernail on his pitching hand Sept. 8.

Athletics 9, Tigers 8

In Detroit, Jed Lowrie hit a go-ahead grand slam against Alex Wilson, and Oakland overcame a four-run deficit to beat Detroit.

The Tigers trailed 3-0 in the third inning, then took an 8-4 lead into the seventh, when Ryon Healy hit a bases-loaded grounder to shortstop Jose Iglesias, who bobbled the ball for an error as Lowrie scored.

Joey Wendle, Franklin Barreto and Chad Pinder started the eighth with singles off Wilson (2-5), and Lowrie followed with his third career slam.

Alex Gordon hits MLB's record-setting 5,694th HR of season

TORONTO (AP)—Kansas City's Alex Gordon broke Major League Baseball's season home run record with 12 days to spare, hitting the 5,694th long ball of 2017 on Tuesday night.

Gordon's home run off Toronto's Ryan Tepera broke a mark set in 2000 at the height of the Steroids Era. The drive, which drove in the last run in the Royals' 5-2 loss, was his eighth this season and the 159th of his 11-year big league career.

"A pretty cool thing to be a part of," Gordon said. "I didn't hit many this year, but I guess I made one count."

It was the 17th home run of the night in the major leagues and came just after Detroit's Alex Presley tied the record when he connected at home against Oakland's Daniel Gossett.

Gordon said he heard talk of the record on a clubhouse television after Toronto's Darwin Barney homered in the sixth.

"I was kind of aware that we were getting close to it," he said. "After I walked back to the dugout. I kind of forgot about it."

Holding the ball he hit over the right-field wall, Gordon said he didn't plan to keep the historic memento or anything else from the game.

"I'm going to give it to Cooperstown," Gordon said. "I figured they'd probably have much more reason to have it than I do. I don't really want to remember too much about this season, so I'll probably just give it away and let them take care of it."

There were 5,610 homers last year, an average of 2.31 per game, and this year's average of 2.53 entering Tuesday's action projects to 6,139. That would be up 47 percent from 4,186 in 2014.

"I don't know what to make of it," Royals manager Ned Yost said. "Guys are bigger and guys are stronger. but so are the pitchers. There sure are a lot of home runs being hit."

Blue Jays manager John Gibbons has noticed the surge in homers but doesn't have an explanation.

"It really looks like the ball is flying," he said.

Power subsided after the start of drug testing with penalties in 2004. The home run average dropped in 2014 to its lowest level since 1992, then started rising during the second half of the 2015 season.

Lions staying grounded after win in prime time

AP
New York Giants' Eli Apple (24) defends Detroit Lions' Marvin Jones (11) as the latter catches a pass for a touchdown during the first half of an NFL football game, Monday, Sept. 18, 2017, in East Rutherford, N.J.

ALLEN PARK, Mich. (AP)—Jim Caldwell's demeanor doesn't change much, even after a nationally televised victory on the road.

Detroit's famously even-keeled coach had a quick reply when asked about his team's 2-0 start to the season.

"Only thing it guarantees you is that you won't be 1-15," Caldwell said Tuesday. "Still got a lot of work to do."

That remark falls squarely into the category of coach-speak, but Caldwell's calm attitude was fitting after the way the Lions won Monday night.

For once, Detroit didn't need a fourth-quarter rally to win. The Lions took the lead in the second quarter and held it the rest of the way, beating the New York Giants 24-10 .

There was nothing particularly flashy about it, and Detroit's postgame comments reflected that.

"I think it's just another football game. The dimensions of the field were going to be the same," quarterback Matthew Stafford said.

"The team we were playing is a good football team, a playoff-caliber football team with a great defense and talented offense. Any time you can go on the road in this league and play a team like that and get a win in a tough environment, it's a good thing."

Stafford and the Lions have been criticized over the years for their inability to win big games away from home.

Just last season, Detroit was 9-4 before a three-game skid, which included road losses to the Giants and Cowboys, cost the Lions the NFC North title.

So Monday's win was significant, and the Lions now have two victories by double digits in 2017 after managing only one all of last season.

They made the playoffs a season ago by pulling off several comebacks in the final quarter, but that wasn't necessary this time.

Detroit had only 12 first downs, and Stafford was held to 122 yards passing. The Lions clearly felt the absence of injured tackle Taylor Decker, but they made up for their offensive struggles with a couple of big plays on special teams.

Matt Prater kicked a 56-yard field goal near the end of the first half, and rookie Jamal Agnew scored on an 88-yard punt return in the final quarter.

For a second consecutive week, the Lions looked sharp on defense. After forcing four turnovers in a season-opening victory over Arizona, Detroit sacked Eli Manning five times.

"We've had some production there just in terms of collapsing the pocket and getting ourselves near and around the quarterback," Caldwell said.

"Yesterday was one of those unusual days where you get five, but I do think that our guys are coming along. They've stepped up to the challenge for two weeks, but there's a third one looming, and a very good one at that."

Detroit's impressive start has set up an intriguing game this coming weekend, at home against Atlanta. The Falcons are off to a 2-0 start as well after making it to the Super Bowl last season.

Even if the Lions wanted to bask in the glow of their prime-time win over the Giants, they can't afford to spend too much time celebrating it. Another big challenge awaits.

"The minute you start talking about what you think you've gotten done in this league, you end up getting your ears kicked in," Caldwell said.

"We've played OK for two games. We know we got a big one coming up and with an outstanding football team with a lot of great personnel, and they're going to be tough to handle."

In California, Jared Goff knows what to expect Thursday.

The Los Angeles Rams quarterback played at Levi's Stadium in college against future San Francisco 49ers defensive lineman DeForest Buckner. Goff also faced fellow first-round picks Arik Armstead and Solomon Thomas during his college career. And the former California star isn't caught up in his return to the Bay Area and another chance to play in front of familiar faces.

"I've played in front of my friends and family for so long now that it's more normal than it is not," Goff said. "But it will be fun to be back there."

Goff was inactive for the Rams' season-opening visit to Santa Clara last year. He returns as a different player altogether.

Goff has his first NFL win under his belt, and a good grasp of an offense that plays to his strengths. He looks more like the record-setting Golden Bear than the scared rookie, moving more naturally in the pocket and featuring all of his pass-catching options.

Eight different Rams caught passes from Goff in a 27-20 loss to Washington last weekend, and he found seven different targets in a season-opening opening rout of Indianapolis. Coach Sean McVay's offense uses West Coast principles, and spreading the ball always has been an important component of such systems.

"You don't really have one guy that goes for 120 catches usually, I don't think, in this offense," Goff said. "I think the guys have been extremely unselfish and extremely disciplined in what they doing. As long as they continue to get open, I'll do my best to get them the ball."

Morgan scores twice as US beats New Zealand

CINCINNATI (AP)—Alex Morgan scored twice and the U.S. women's national team concluded a two-game series against New Zealand with a 5-0 victory at Nippert Stadium on Tuesday night.

The Americans improved to 9-3-0 this year. There are four more games left on the team's 2017 schedule.

The U.S. defeated the Ferns 3-1 in the first game last Friday night in Commerce City, Colorado. Julie Ertz led the way with two goals.

Lindsey Horan got the Americans off to a nice start in the rematch, scoring on a header in the 36th minute after coming in for Rose Lavelle. Mallory Pugh made it 2-0 in the 44th minute. Pugh also finished with two assists.

Lavelle, who is from Cincinnati, played the shortened shift for the hometown crowd as she continues to come back from injury.

Morgan scored her first goal within the first minute of the second half. Lynne Williams added her third career national team goal before Morgan struck again in the 69th minute. It was her 77th international goal.

The U.S. also got midfielder Tobin Heath back from a back injury. She came in as a late sub for her first action with the national team since March.

Meanwhile, in New York, the North American Soccer League has sued the United States Soccer Federation, saying it has illegally protected the monopoly position of its business partner: Major League Soccer.

The lawsuit was filed Tuesday in Brooklyn federal court. It asks a judge to conclude that the U.S. Soccer Federation violates antitrust laws and to grant it unspecified relief.

The lawsuit said the U.S. Soccer Federation creates regulations to protect Major League Soccer from competition, enriching itself and protecting the league from competitors in the U.S. and Canada.

The lawsuit said the North American Soccer League has sought to compete with Major League Soccer as a top-tier professional soccer league with its teams frequently defeating Major League Soccer teams in periodic matchups.

The U.S. Soccer Federation declined comment.

Woods' event out of Congressional, looking for sponsor

ATLANTA (AP)—The tournament that Tiger Woods launched 10 years ago remained on next season's PGA Tour schedule.

Still to be determined is where)—and if)—it is held.

Quicken Loans has not renewed as title sponsor, and the PGA Tour felt it had no choice but to opt out of its contract to play at Congressional in 2018 and 2020. But that doesn't necessarily mean the end of the tournament, or even golf in the Washington, D.C., area.

For now, The National is scheduled to be played from June 28 through July 1 at a course to be determined.

"We are in discussions with Quicken on extending our partnership, but as we sit here today, we have not concluded those discussions," PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan said Tuesday.

The tournament began in 2007 as the AT&T National to benefit the Tiger Woods Foundation, with golf's biggest name as the host. It had a military theme and was held around the Fourth of July outside the nation's capital.

Detroit-based Quicken Loans took over as title sponsor in 2015. By then, Woods was struggling with injuries, and the timing of the event between the U.S. Open and British Open meant a weaker fielder than when it began. Woods wound up playing just six of 10 years as he coped with issues off the course and with injuries.

The tournament was held for two years at Aronimink outside Philadelphia when Congressional was getting ready for the 2011 U.S. Open. Since then, it has been played at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Club in Virginia and this year at the TPC Potomac at Avenel Farm down the road from Congressional.

Mark Steinberg, Woods' agent at Excel Sports, said Woods' foundation is speaking to potential sponsors, including Quicken Loans. One possibility for Quicken Loans to renew is for the tournament to move to Detroit.

"That's clearly been something that has been discussed, but not in great detail at this point," Steinberg said.

Even so, he said the goal is to stay in the Washington area.

"We've built up a lot of synergy in the market. Ideally, we'd like to stay there," Steinberg said. "But nothing is off the table. We are discussing any and all options. If that's what Quicken has a great desire for, we would try to make that work."

The PGA Tour season will look much different in 2018-19 when The Players Championship moves back to March and the PGA Championship is held in May. The tour also intends to end its FedEx Cup season around Labor Day, meaning that at least two tournaments would have to move to the fall or go away.

Monahan was not ready to consider a move to Detroit if it came to that.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Jennifer Cui poses for the physique competition.

Dee Clayton Classic next month

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
From left, Aaron Tomokane, Donivan Mendiola, and Stanley Iakopo pose for the judges during the body building competition in the 2016 Dee Clayton Classic held at the Charley's Cabaret of Pacific Islands Club.

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The annual Dee Clayton Classic Bodybuilding, Figure, Physique, Bikini International Invitational Championship returns for the seventh edition on Oct. 21 at the Pacific Islands Club-Saipan.

The 2017 Overall Bodybuilding and Physique titles will be at stake as well as the Open Bodybuilding and Physique, Master and Classic Physique, Figure, Bikini, Fitness, and Fitness Pageant categories.

Organizers have also added the Teen Bodybuilding, Physique, Fitness, and Bikini divisions to further encourage the youth to get into shape and remain active.

Cousins Prince Toe Sr. and Grady Gary of California, who are international bodybuilders, and International Bodybuilding Federation professional Greg Monk of Guam will grace the occasion as guest posers.

Gray, in a Facebook post, said he looks forward to showcasing his skills in front of the Saipan crowd. "[I'm] always grateful for the opportunity. I cannot wait to meet the great people of Saipan and give them a good show. I have been to Saipan a few times as a guest poser and what I enjoyed most is the hospitality."

He thanked DC Classic organizer Dee Clayton for inviting him and requesting him to bring another guest poser.

"I selected my cousin (Toe). He inspired me to start training when I was in college about 10 years ago and he inspired me to get into bodybuilding a few years back. He's been a beast since," said Gray.

This is the second bodybuilding event in the NMI for 2017 after the CNMI Bodybuilding and Physique Championships took place last July where Clayton also competed and won the Masters Ladies Bikini event.

'BOOM'

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at the 2:43 mark of the first round. Robert "The Deal" Wusstig fought in the main event and foiled the bid of Korean Top Team's Min Gu Lee to take the lightweight belt back to South Korea. The fight went the full five rounds with Wusstig winning by split decision.

Alvarez, moments after beating Eclavea, told *Saipan Tribune* he just followed the doctor's advice to rest and heal his injuries. "The last two years were a real struggle for me. I was really itching to fight but I could not do anything about it."

"I just took some time off and rested. Good thing my injuries did not require an operation, so I just followed the doctor's orders and allowed it to heal. My groin injury was a minor tear and the doctor said it would heal in six months. So I just enjoyed my break," he added.

His last match was in Guam's Pacific Xtreme Combat 50 last Dec. 4, 2015 where he lost by TKO to New Zealand's Mark Abelardo at the four-minute mark of the second round. That was his first loss overall and in a PXC event. Alvarez's win over Eclavea last week then improved his fight record to 6-1, with three of his wins by KO while the Guam warrior suffered his third straight loss since beating Jeff Mesa by armbar submission in PXC 44 last June 27, 2014.

Alvarez has no issue if he needed two rounds to beat Eclavea. "The important thing is the win. As long as I get the job done I'm good with that. I don't predict the result of my fights but I always try to go for the finish."

Four of Alvarez's seven fights ended in the first round with the fastest against Jay Taijeron via knockout by a head kick just 20 seconds into the first round. His second quickest was 26 seconds when he KO'ed Wusstig in Trench Warz 18: Rock and Rumble last Dec. 12, 2014.

Now, Alvarez considered his latest match against Eclavea as a warm-up bout for his anticipated duel against Kanehara in Japan this December. Alvarez will have his hands full against the veteran Kanehara, who has fought three times as an undercard in UFC events and holds a 1-2 record.

MOC

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dead. I felt like we're paddling in mud. But, our coach, Dino Manning, prepared us for those situations. It wasn't anything we weren't familiar with. The guys worked through it."

MOC-A reached the finish line a little over two minutes ahead of Saipan Paddling Club. SPC's Justin and Joshua Andrew, Carter Calma, Benusto Olopai, Icemwar Somorang, and Jay Limes clocked in at 1:23:58. MOC-B, which was made up of Maverick Itibus, Paolo San Jose, Jovano Taitano, Angel San Nicholas, James Lee, and Jason Tarkong, rounded out the Top 3 finishers after submitting 1:27:47.

Meanwhile, three other teams completed the long course race with Marianas Pacific Paddlers Black coming in at fourth place with a time of 1:32:27. SPC Women's Team placed fifth after recording 1:42:01, while MPP White was ranked sixth with its 1:44:23.

In the youth division race, which had a distance of five miles, Napu Outrigger Canoe Club's boys junior squad completed the course in less than an hour after checking in at 57:26. Napu's junior girls team, on the other hand, posted 1:10:24.

The series of short and long distance races organized by NMNPSF aimed at preparing CNMI paddlers for the 2017 Micro Cup that will be held in Guam from Oct. 26 to 29 at Matapang Beach in Tumon.

"There's so much more work to be done to continue to improve and get better. We learn from each experience as a team and we put in the efforts to grow as a team. Our motto is work hard and stay humble," Cruz said.

TANHOLDINGS

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tocut the deficit to one anew.

Angeles and company kept the shaky lead in the remaining minutes, frustrating Kanoa's repeated attempts to knot the count. With the defeat, Kanoa dropped to the bottom of the team standings with its 0-0-2 win-draw-loss record. Kanoa also lost a closely fought match against Shirley's FC, 4-5, in Week 1 of the league,

In other results, Shirley's posted win No. 2, while Matansa and 2017 spring season champion MP United engaged in a scoreless draw.

Shirley's and Paire were still tied in the second half, 3-3, when the latter was forced to forfeit the match due to lack of players. Paire was left with four players (6 are required to play) with only 10 minutes remaining in the second half, as some had to go to Hopwood Middle School to suit up for the club's U12 squad.

With the forfeiture, Shirley's was awarded the 3-0 victory. Before the free win, Rommel Mendoza tallied two goals, while Rakib Hassan scored one for Shirley's. Jon Villagomez recorded all three goals for Paire.

CO-ED U12 DIVISION
Kanoa-1 10, Kanoa-2 2

Defending champion Kanoa-1 showed no mercy to sister team Kanoa-2 with the former's lopsided victory.

Kanoa-1 pounded Kanoa-2 early after scoring seven goals in the first half. Ruben Guerrero and Jim Kurt Maniago had two goals apiece in the first 30 minutes of the one-sided match, while Ronian Laxamana, Sean Gil, and Lester Bata chipped in one each. Bata went on to make a hat trick after getting a brace in the second half, posting back-to-back goals (47th and 54th minute) to close out for Kanoa-1. Markus Toves nailed the other goal for Kanoa-1 in the second half, while Joshua Park and Christopher Daikichy drilled one each for Kanoa-2.

Last Saturday was both team's first match, as the division's triple-header last Sept. 9 was cancelled due to rain.

MP United 10, Paire 3

MP United also won its season-debut match convincingly after routing Paire.

Andrew Chung was unstoppable in MP United's first game this fall after exploding for six goals. Evan Mendiola, Garrett Weaver, and Cody Shimizu contributed one goal apiece for MP United.

Dylan Mister registered all three goals for Paire, making the hat trick in the second half.

TanHoldings 6, Matansa 4

TanHoldings joined MP United and Kanoa-1 in the win column after outclassing Matansa.

Pulido lifted TanHoldings to victory after knocking down three straight goals—all of them were recorded in the second half to foil Matansa's comeback bid.

TanHoldings started the second half enjoying a 3-0 lead after Anthony Bergancia made back-to-back goals (18th and 21st minute) and Mark Joseph Roque added one in the 25th. However, TanHoldings' lead was trimmed down to one, 1-2, no thanks to a pair of goals from Kanoa's Chanyang Woo, who scored the two goals just two minutes into the second half.

Pulido then saved the day for TanHoldings, as his first goal in the 37th minute halted Matansa's rally. However, Matansa was not yet ready to give up as it moved within one anew off Jin Wen Xin's shot a minute later. With Matansa threatening a comeback, Pulido iced it for TanHoldings with his goals in the 42nd and 50th minute. Woo duplicated Pulido's hat trick in the 53rd minute, but it was not enough to prevent TanHoldings from winning its first match this season.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	87	64	.576	—
New York	84	67	.556	3
Tampa Bay	73	78	.483	14
Baltimore	73	79	.480	14½
Toronto	71	80	.470	16

Central Division

x-Cleveland	94	57	.623	—
Minnesota	78	73	.517	16
Kansas City	73	77	.487	20½
Detroit	62	89	.411	32
Chicago	60	90	.400	33½

West Division

x-Houston	92	58	.613	—
Los Angeles	76	74	.507	16
Texas	74	76	.493	18
Seattle	74	77	.490	18½
Oakland	68	83	.450	24½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

x-Washington	91	59	.607	—
Miami	71	80	.470	20½
Atlanta	67	82	.450	23½
New York	65	86	.430	26½
Philadelphia	60	91	.397	31½

Central Division

Chicago	84	66	.560	—
Milwaukee	81	70	.536	3½
St. Louis	78	72	.520	6
Pittsburgh	68	84	.447	17
Cincinnati	66	85	.437	18½

West Division

z-Los Angeles	96	55	.636	—
Arizona	87	65	.572	9½
Colorado	82	69	.543	14
San Diego	68	83	.450	28
San Francisco	59	93	.388	37½

z-clinched playoff berth
x-clinched division

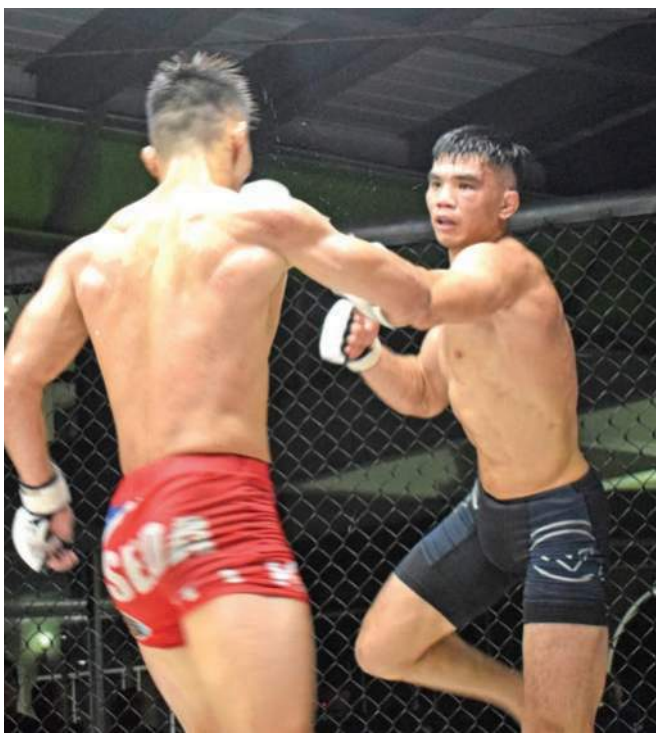
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rites of Passage 22: Rampage

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ

Team Tinian's Perry Mundo, top, chokes hold Luta Top Team's L.D. Ogo in one of the undercard fights in last Friday's Rites of Passage 22: Rampage held at the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe.

Andres "The Tanapag Beach Bad Boy" Camacho, right, and Kimo Adriano of Team Tinian try to take down each other in order to gain the upperhand in their match.



Rob "The Deal" Wusstig, right, prepares to strike Korean Top Team's Min Gu Lee in the main event.

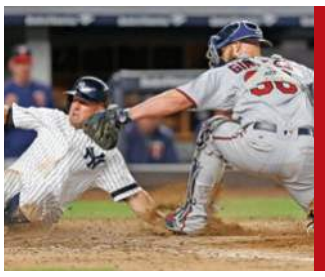
Independent Fight Club's JBoy Langu, left, taunts Manny "The Kid" Camacho of Zombie MMA.

Team Ace MMA Sang Hyun Park of South Korea, center, is joined by some of his compatriots on the octagon cage after his fight against Rota's Juan "Hot Pocket" Lizama of Steel Athletics Guam.

Trench Tech's Jordan "The Machine" Manglona, left, tries to prevent McKlane Alfred of Vida MMA Guam from taking him down in their flyweight title match.

Jesse Mesa of Mesa MMA walks toward the eight-sides before his grudge match against Donnie Fejeran.

Donnie Fejeran, left, watches Jesse Mesa stagger down after hitting him with a left jab.



Sabathia, Gardner help Yankees top Twins

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Sports

Lions staying grounded after win in prime time

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TanHoldings recovers, nips Kanoa

'Boom' ends 'struggle' with title defense win

JON PEREZ

Roman "Sonic Boom" Alvarez, second left, reacts as referee Mike Ulloa declares him the winner against Robin Eclavea of Vida BJJ Guam in their featherweight title bout in last Friday's s Rites of Passage 22: Rampage held at the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe.

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The last 21 months were a "struggle" for Roman "Sonic Boom" Alvarez as he could do nothing but watch from the sidelines as his fellow members at Trench Tech Gym either trained or fought inside the eight-sides.

Alvarez was sidelined by injuries for almost two years, first in his hamstring and the last one in his groin while he was training to fight Ultimate Fighting Championship veteran and Japanese Masanori Kanehara in DEEP Cage Impact in Tokyo in December 2016.

Then last Friday, he was one of the three champions that defended their belts, as he forced Vida BJJ Guam's Robin Eclavea to tap out from a rear-naked-choke with 2:15 left in the second round of their 145-lb title bout. His Trench Tech teammate Jordan "The Machine" Manglona kept the flyweight crown as the latter won by technical knockout against McKlane "The Game" Alfred of Vida MMA Guam after letting loose a flurry of punches

See 'BOOM" on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

TanHoldings Football Club's Anthony John Bergancia, left, tries to keep up with Kanoa FC's Daniel Mar Pablo, right, and Markus Toves during the second half of their boys U14 division game in the 2017 NMIFA Fall Youth League last Saturday at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

TanHoldings Football Club bounced back from its season-debut loss with a 3-2 victory against Kanoa FC in their boys U14 division game in the 2017 NMIFA Fall Youth League last Saturday at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association

TanHoldings drew goals from three different players to get back on track quickly after absorbing a 0-2 loss to MP United during the league's opening week. Oliver Fajardo started things out for the defending champion with his goal right in the first minute, while Angelo Pulido scored the squad's second goal four minutes later.

Kanoa failed to counter in the entire first half and was pressed to play catch up in the last 35 minutes of the game. A Brian Lubao shot in the 42nd minute moved Kanoa within one, but Aloy Zeus Angeles gave TanHoldings more breathing room with his conversion in the 50th minute. Angeles' goal eventually served as insurance for TanHoldings, as four minutes later, Lubao made a penalty kick

See TANHOLDINGS on Page 26

MOC paddlers lead finishers in 10-mile race

Northern Marianas National Paddling Sports Federation

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Marianas Outrigger Canoe-A did it again, topping the Northern Marianas National Paddling Sports Federation's Long Distance Race Series 2 held last Sunday.

Bobby Cruz, Jose Quan, Vince Tudela, Billy Grow, Rich Salas, and Jack Kabiriel teamed up for MOC-A, finishing the 10-mile course that started and ended at Kilili Beach in 1:21:39. Their time in Series 2 was slower that the mark (1:12:16) they posted in last month's event, no thanks to the challenging race day condition.

"Conditions were tough. We had to battle strong winds and rough waters, especially once we exited into the open ocean. We tried to hug the reef to use the swells, but it was still tough," Cruz said. "When we entered the Bantalan channel, the water was

See MOC on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI paddlers pose for a photo at Kilili Beach after completing the Northern Marianas National Paddling Sports Federation's Long Distance Race Series 2 last Sunday.